

Election Brings Ray of Hope to Battered Algeria

By John F. Burns
New York Times Service

ALGIERS — As a muezzin's afternoon call to prayers rang through the cobbled alleyways of Algiers's Casbah, Mouloud Takdjout settled into a comfortable niche in the old city wall and watched fellow Muslims hurry past.

A cigarette dangling from his mouth, the 50-year-old "wall man," the nickname Algerians give to their millions of unemployed, tapped his foot to the merriment of a Berber pop song playing on his transistor radio and talked of an Algeria that may at last be emerging from a nightmare.

"Everything has an end, including this, and we are within sight of the finish," he said, referring to the savage war between Algeria's military rulers and Islamic guerrilla groups that has taken at least 80,000

lives since it began in 1992. The strife erupted after the shadowy group of generals who hold real power in this nation of 28 million canceled a second round of elections that were on the verge of securing a parliamentary majority for a militant Islamic party.

The Casbah, a maze of streets in the old Turkish quarter of Algiers, became for most people almost completely off-limits, its traditional vitality dulled by the lurking presence of Islamic guerrillas, who used it as a base to mount bombings, ambushes and assassinations, terrorizing Algerians as their allies outside the capital terrorized much of the rest of the country.

In many cases, the dead were civilian women and children, sometimes babies only a few months old. Often the killers cut victims' throats, burned them alive, gouged out their eyes, or hacked them to pieces.

Few foreigners ventured into the legendary Cas-

bah, even with the posse of armed bodyguards that are every visitor's inseparable shadows.

Rumors of government complicity in the violence abounded, but, despite promises, the generals never allowed international human rights groups to investigate the allegations.

Now, to the surprise of many Algerians, the situation has eased. A presidential election, scheduled for April 15, has come alive, with 11 candidates representing an array of political opinions, and a promise from the army not to rig the ballot, as it has in the past.

The group of generals who control the government, known to French-speaking Algerians as "Le Pouvoir" (The Power), reached a cease-fire pact in autumn 1997 with the Islamic Salvation Army, the

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Beijing Hardens On Missile Shield

Foreign Minister Also Disputes U.S. Nuclear Espionage Report

By John Pomfret
Washington Post Service

BEIJING — China continued its campaign Sunday against proposals in the United States to place parts of Asia, including Taiwan, under an American anti-missile umbrella, warning that such a move would block China's hopes of reuniting peacefully with Taiwan.

Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan also denied a published report in the United States that China had stolen U.S. technology that allowed it to miniaturize its nuclear weapons — a major leap forward in nuclear weapons technology.



Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan at a briefing in Beijing on Sunday.

"If some people intend to include Taiwan under theater missile defense, that would amount to an encroachment on China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and also be an obstruction to the great cause of peaceful reunification of the motherland," Mr. Tang said.

Mr. Tang's remarks constituted the strongest public reaction to date concerning the consequences of providing Taiwan with anti-missile technology. The remarks are part of a Chinese campaign to put the Clinton administration on notice that it will not tolerate the deployment of an anti-missile system in Asia. On Friday, a senior Chinese official said the provision of anti-missile technology to Taiwan would be the "last straw" in U.S.-China relations.

The campaign comes at a time when no firm decisions have been made in the United States about the anti-missile system, known as Theater Missile Defense, or TMD. China appears to have decided to let its voice be heard on this issue in an attempt to convince the United States that deploying such a system would create more problems than it would solve.

Mr. Tang stressed that China was opposed to providing the anti-missile technology to both Taiwan and Japan, with whom the United States has maintained a close security relationship.

"The development and research of TMD does not go with the trend of the times, nor is it conducive to international disarmament efforts," Mr. Tang said. "It will also exert a negative impact on the global and regional strategic balance and stability into the next century."

Mr. Tang also suggested that the system would conflict with Tokyo's constitutional pledge to maintain only defensive military capabilities.

The recent Chinese barrage of statements against the missile shield indicates that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright failed in her recent trip to Beijing to clear up what her aides said were "misunderstandings" in China about U.S. plans. The statements also underscore a widening gap between Beijing's and Washington's interests in Asia — differences that Clinton administration officials have sought to paper over but that have been emphasized by China.

The clash is a traditional one: between an entrenched power, the United States, and a resurgent one, China. Chinese officials have become increas-

ingly outspoken in recent months about their opposition to U.S. military deployments in Asia and their objection to the alliances maintained by the United States with several Asian nations: Australia, Japan and South Korea.

Mrs. Albright said last week that China should stop worrying about "a decision that has not been made to deploy defensive technologies that do not yet exist" and should do more to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. She was referring to North Korea, which U.S. officials worry is trying to build a nuclear weapon.

Mr. Tang said fears about North Korea were "greatly exaggerated."

Mr. Tang also brushed aside a Pentagon report that said China had bolstered its missile force facing Taiwan. Beijing regards Taiwan as a renegade province and has refused to rule out an invasion if Taiwan declares independence. "Whether we should deploy missiles on our own territory is our own business," he said.

The foreign minister also criticized as "very irresponsible" a report Saturday in The New York Times that China stole U.S. technology to produce small nuclear warheads.

The report said China obtained the technology from the U.S. Energy Department's weapons lab in Los Alamos. Mr. Tang said the report was part of a campaign in the United States to hurt U.S.-China relations.

Mr. Tang also appeared unruffled by the prospect that the United States or another Western country would try to pass a resolution condemning China at the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva this month.

"If somebody attempts to table an anti-China draft resolution again this year in Geneva, then I think the outcome will not be different than the previous seven times," Mr. Tang said.

Chinese security services have recently begun their toughest crackdown on dissent in years.

Inside Today

Travel

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Global Upstarts Pressure Bourses To Go Where Old Rules Don't Apply

By Diana B. Henriques
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Threatened by competitors that are grabbing a growing share of their booming business, the major U.S. stock markets are trying to transform themselves by forming alliances with their foes and adopting some of their practices.

If the transformation works as its advocates hope, it could provide investors, big and small, with better service at lower prices. But if it goes awry, it could damage a national treasure: a stock market whose strength and fairness have attracted capital internationally, fostered the growth of new businesses and provided opportunities for millions of investors.

In recent weeks, the New York Stock Exchange, where traders have met on a central trading floor for 207 years, has said it might build or buy its own electronic trading network, where brokers or customers could trade stocks — especially popular ones such as those of Intel Corp. or Microsoft Corp. — that are listed on other exchanges.

The Nasdaq, an electronic marketplace linked by telephones and computer terminals, has acknowledged that it is discussing possible alliances with private trading networks. The largest such network, the Instinet unit of Reuters Group PLC, said it had talked with both Nasdaq and the New York exchange about alternative ways to trade stocks.

Some experts fear that the changes afoot will shatter the existing marketplace into many smaller and more volatile markets, making it harder for investors to be assured of the best price for their trades.

They also worry that as the New York Stock Exchange competes with other trading networks, it will be less insistent on enforcing the tough standards it imposes on companies that want to be listed there. Those standards, such as requiring that a majority of a company's board be independent outsiders, are intended to protect shareholders and are stricter than federal securities laws.

Finally, the changes could put pressure on the U.S. market to allow big investors to operate with greater secrecy, to the disadvantage of small investors.

"Competition is a good thing, but it can have some unintended consequences," warned John Coffee, a professor of securities law at Columbia University and a member of advisory committees at both the New York Stock Exchange and Nasdaq.

Despite the dangers, market officials and professional traders say that preserving the status quo is no longer an option. As technology improves, investors are demanding faster, cheaper ways to trade securities — and if the United States' existing markets don't respond to those demands, someone else will.

"You can't get in the way of the market," said Frank Zarb, chairman of the National Association of Securities Dealers, which operates both Nasdaq and the American



END OF A JOURNEY — Colin Prescott and Andy Elson preparing to leave their balloon after being forced to land Sunday in the sea off the western coast of Japan due to bad weather. The balloonists, who were attempting to circumnavigate the globe, were not injured. Page 5.

Stanley Kubrick Is Dead at 70

Director Made '2001: A Space Odyssey' and 'Dr. Strangelove'

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — Stanley Kubrick, 70, the director of "2001: A Space Odyssey" and "A Clockwork Orange" whose films often puzzled and shocked audiences only to end up as classics, died Sunday at his home in England, his family said.

The police were summoned to Mr. Kubrick's rural home in St. Albans, north of London, on Sunday afternoon, said the authorities in Hertfordshire, where he was certified dead. "There are no suspicious circumstances," the police said.

Mr. Kubrick's films included "Spartacus" in 1960, "Lolita" in 1962, "Dr. Strangelove" in 1964, "2001" in 1968 and "A Clockwork Orange" in 1971.

He also made "Barry Lyndon," released in 1975, "The Shining" in 1978 and "Full Metal Jacket" in 1987.

His latest film, "Eyes Wide Shut," is still slated for

release July 16, Warner Bros. said. Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman star in the story of jealousy and obsession, which Mr. Kubrick made in great secrecy.

With Mr. Kubrick's death, the cinema loses its greatest perfectionist, a control freak who demanded the last word on every stage in the process from screenplay, via music, lighting and editing, to the final touches of postproduction.

Mr. Kubrick's love affair with movies began on his 15th birthday, and he pursued it obsessively throughout his life, producing a string of films on themes that expressed the fears and phobias of the times.

Along the way, he drew innumerable collaborators to distinction. The distinguished French filmmaker Bertrand Tavernier, resigned as publicist for "A Clockwork Orange" with a cable sent to Mr. Kubrick

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If Pilot Wasn't at Fault, Who Was?

By Steve Vogel
Washington Post Service

CAMP LEJEUNE, North Carolina — A mounting firestorm of anger over the acquittal of Captain Richard Ashby has crystallized around one question: If the Marine Corps pilot who flew his jet very low and cut a cable holding a ski gondola in the Italian Alps is not at fault for the death of 20 people, then who is?

"There has to be somebody who's responsible," said Sindy Renkewitz, a young German woman who lost her father and sister in the accident. "If not him, his superiors."

But with the Marine pilot acquitted Thursday, and the case against the navigator, Captain Joseph Schweitzer, consequently appearing very weak, it will

be difficult to assign blame to any one person or small group of persons.

Instead, some here suggest that the verdict represented a broad indictment of the Marine Corps for failing to properly equip and train its aviators and then declining to look up the chain of command for a culprit when something went wrong.

"That's the only logical conclusion, that the jurors believe it's the fault of superiors, and that they believe the crew didn't have the right map, equipment and training," said Torrence Armstrong, an attorney representing some of the family members.

The most significant punishment meted out for the deaths thus far has been the removal from command of

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Fears Grow as Fliers Are Shifted to Less Safe Airlines

By Don Phillips
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Every day, thousands of people board planes holding a ticket imprinted with the name of a familiar U.S. airline, but take off in a jet run by an unfamiliar foreign carrier.

Newsstand Prices

Bahrain	1,000 BD	Malta	55 c
Cyprus	£ 1.00	Nigeria	12500 Naira
Denmark	17 DKR	Oman	1,250 QR
Finland	12.00 FM	Qatar	10.00 QR
Gibraltar	£ 0.85	Rep. Ireland	IR £1.10
Great Britain	UK £1.00	Saudi Arabia	10 SR
Egypt	EE 5.50	S. Africa	RT15 incl VAT
Jordan	1,250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dh
K. SH.	160 U.S. M.L. (Exr.)		5.120
Yemen	700 Yls	Zimbabwe	Zim\$40.00

That means some passengers unwittingly fly on airlines with safety records that fall short of standards set in the United States and Europe.

A burgeoning practice of sharing or combining flights, known as "code-sharing," allows airlines to create marketing alliances that give passengers almost seamless travel around the globe.

But the scramble for partnerships into regions such as Asia and Africa — with some of the world's least-safe airlines — has begun to trouble some airline executives and U.S. officials. In response, airline executives for the first time are beginning an industry-wide effort to raise international aviation safety standards.

The code-sharing dilemma emerged recently after the crash of Swissair Flight 111. The flight carried 50 passengers who held tickets that had been purchased from its U.S. partner, Delta Airlines, when it crashed off the coast of Nova Scotia last year, killing all 229 people on board.

Swissair is generally regarded as one of the world's safest airlines, but the odds of dying on some foreign airlines are many times higher than on U.S. carriers. This is in part because crew training and oversight of airlines can vary widely from country to country.

China Airlines of Taiwan, for example, is an American Airlines and

Continental Airlines code-sharing partner. Aircclaims Ltd. of London, which tracks airline accidents, lists three China Airlines crashes with 465 deaths in the past decade.

And a 1996 Conde Nast survey listed China Airlines as having an accident rate throughout its existence of 11.43 fatal accidents per 1 million flights, compared with a 0.15 rate for American and a 0.29 rate for Continental.

A person flying from Dallas to Taipei on Monday night, for instance, would leave on American Flight 691 and transfer in San Francisco to American Flight 6123.

At least that is what the ticket would say. But American Flight 6123, which leaves shortly after midnight, is really China Airlines Flight 3.

American Airlines has been quietly working with the Taiwan airline on safety in the past few months, officials said. With no clear legal precedents es-

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AGENDA

Bonn Drops EU Agriculture Proposal

Germany is giving up its insistence on "co-financing" in an overhaul of the EU's agriculture budget, a spokeswoman said Sunday.

In bowing to French opposition to the plan, which would have required individual governments to pick up part of the tab for farm subsidies, the German decision paved the way for progress in talks on reforms of European Union farm policy.

Bonn had viewed the co-financing plan as a key element in securing a

significant reduction in its contribution to the EU budget.

But even a relatively small degree of co-financing would have added billions to public spending in France, the EU's biggest agriculture producer.

The German spokeswoman said the concept of co-financing was "not politically negotiable."

She said that "it was decided with the partners to work on other concepts to limit expenses." Page 6.

NEW RULER

Sheikh Hamad ibn Issa ibn Sulman, new emir of Bahrain, receiving condolences Sunday in Manama. Sheikh Hamad succeeds his father, Sheikh Isa ibn Sulman al Khalifa, who had ruled the emirate since 1961. Sheikh Isa, 65, died from a heart attack Saturday, minutes after a meeting with William Cohen, the U.S. defense secretary. Page 13.



Microsoft to Alter Windows Software

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Microsoft Corp. has moved to defuse a potentially explosive privacy issue by saying it will modify a feature of its Windows 98 operating system that has been quietly used to create a vast database of personal information about computer users. Page 15.



Brutal Irish 'Peace' / Ruthless Tradition of the North's Militias

Belfast Gangs Are Devouring Their Own

By Warren Hoge
New York Times Service

BELFAST — It took death and dismemberment to bring together the families of Andrew Peden, a 35-year-old Protestant, and Andrew Kearney, a 33-year-old Catholic, but the awkward union is serving to expose one of Northern Ireland's most persistent and ruthless traditions.

Both men were victims of punishment beatings, in which members of the paramilitary armies that control working-class neighborhoods in this conflicted British province turn their violence not on their declared enemies from the other side of the religious divide but on their own.

Gangs in ski masks haul their victims into darkened alleys and back streets from homes, street corners, pubs and vehicles. They bind them, hang them upside down from railings or pin them to the ground in a crucifixion posture before beating them with hammers, iron bars and baseball bats studded with nails. Then they shoot them in the kneecaps, the thighs or feet.

Mr. Kearney died from the attack on him by a methodical 10-person Irish Republican Army squad that dragged him from the bed where he was playing with his 2-week-old daughter, shot him three times, then locked him in the elevator of his building and ripped out telephone lines so that no rescuers could reach him before he bled to death.

Mr. Peden barely survived shotgun wounds and 10 hours of assault by Ulster Volunteer Force fighters that required months of hospital treatment and a double amputation, leaving him with two stumps on either side of his groin and a palsied and stunted body that needs a daily dosage of 42 pills to keep functioning.

In a grim paradox, punishment beatings increase at times like the present when cease-fires and political negotiations drastically reduce the killing between the two warring religious communities and bring the exhilarating promise of peace. While the peace arrangements move toward a hoped-for conclusion at the end of this month, the rate of punishment beatings, more than one a day during the first two months of 1999, is the highest in 10 years.

"The groups weren't challenged when they had the guns behind them, and this is the way they point out that they still have them," said David Hanna, chief information officer of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. "They've had social control for 30 years now, and they don't want to lose that edge in the new circumstances."

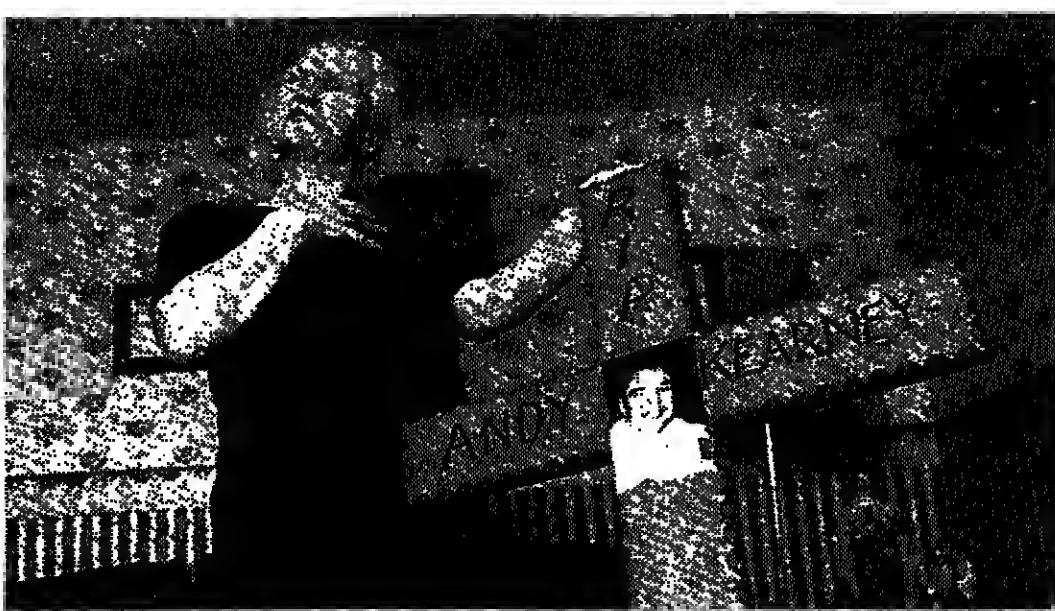
Sam Cushnahan, director of Families Against Intimidation and Terror, a nongovernmental organization that seeks to give voice to victims of violence, said: "It's all about power and control."

The militias took on their enforcement role, particularly in Catholic neighborhoods, to supplant reviled British security forces and the largely Protestant Royal Ulster Constabulary and to maintain unity and discipline in the separate communities as the sectarian conflict became more intense over the last three decades.

They became such an accepted and feared institution of life that in many cases targeted young men would be delivered to punishment squads by their relatives and then picked up and taken home bloodied and battered afterward. The original aim was to curb drug-dealing, vandalism, car theft and other "anti-social behavior," but now the scores being settled are just as often grudges, disputes over women and disrespect shown a militia leader.

Unlike the sectarian bombings and murders that still occur in Northern Ireland, the savagery is not the work of renegades at odds with their paramilitary groups' cease-fire declarations and endorsement of the peace settlement. It is practiced by men and women who answer to political parties sworn to the nonviolent principles of the accord.

No one questions the fact that parties like Sinn Féin, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army, or the Progressive Unionists, the political representatives of the Ulster Volunteer Force mi-



Maureen Kearney, above, holding a cross with a photo of her son, Andrew. She was an IRA loyalist until he was brutally killed by members of the predominantly Roman Catholic group last year. Andrew Peden barely survived shotgun wounds and 10 hours of torture by Protestant fighters of the Unionist Volunteer Force that required months of hospitalization and the amputation of his legs.



litiaries, have control over the vigilante actions and can suspend them when it suits their purposes.

"When you look at the graphs and see a sudden falloff in punishment beatings," Mr. Cushnahan said, "look at the date and you'll see it's because someone like Clinton was due to come here or there was an election scheduled. They can switch it on and off."

The gangs operate with impunity because no victims testify and no witnesses come forward for fear of even more vicious retaliation. Mr. Peden and Mr. Kearney would be just two more soon-forgotten grisly statistics here were it not for the determination of their families to protest.

"These groups say they exist to protect our communities. They call themselves the sons of Ulster," said Mr. Peden, propped between two pillows on his living-room sofa. "You call this protection?" he asked, pointing to his severed limbs. His wife, Linda, has rejected an apology from militia leaders, saying, "What good is that after he has been left with half a body?"

He knows the identities of the men who beat him and sees them moving freely about his own neighborhood, the all-Protestant Glencrain housing project. He wakes up each day to the hated sight of a second-story window in a building directly across the street. It is the apartment where he was tortured

and shot after being abducted from his own back yard.

For Andrew Kearney's mother, Maureen, speaking out was a bold departure from an unquestioning lifelong commitment to the Republican cause, which has been fighting for the end of British rule here and eventual union with the Republic of Ireland. "Criticizing the IRA is like condemning my own family," she said. Her father was a member of the organization, her brother one of the IRA men interned by the British in 1971, a nephew served 20 years in prison for IRA actions, and Bobby Sands, who achieved martyr status with his hunger strike death in 1981, was her cousin.

Neither Mr. Kearney nor Mr. Peden had any involvement in the tribal politics of Northern Ireland, and their experiences illustrate graphically the random and unforgiving nature of the vigilante justice that rules their neighborhoods.

Mr. Kearney was marked for punishment because he came to the rescue of a 17-year-old boy being beaten by an IRA brigade commander in a pub and then challenged the man to a fist fight outside. Mr. Peden became a target because he was mistakenly thought to be an ally of a paramilitary neighbor mixed up in a dispute with a rival militia. He was seized, blindfolded and thrown onto the floor of a waiting car on May 2 as he was preparing to take his wife and three children on a weekend trip. He had no idea of why he was being assaulted, and when he tried to protest his innocence during the beating, he was hit and told to shut up.

Mr. Kearney had received warnings that he was going to "get done," his mother said, and for more than a year he had been assuring her that he was "looking over his shoulder." At the urging of a local priest, he offered to compose a letter of apology and recite it in the pub, but IRA representatives told Mrs. Kearney that it wouldn't satisfy the offended commander's desire for revenge. The masked men came to get him just after midnight the morning of July 19, the date that is now on his tombstone.

Of the IRA, the organization she has been loyal to her entire life, she says, "They're taking the violence they used to use against the British and the security forces and they're turning it on their own community. They're thugs, scum."

Anywhere in the World, Tourists Take a Chance

By Donald G. McNeil Jr.
New York Times Service

JOHANNESBURG — Eight tourists, including an American couple, were slashed to death last week deep in the Ugandan jungle, apparently by Hutu militiamen targeting Britons and Americans. The tourists had been there in the hope of trekking up a slope full of biting insects and stinging nettles to spend a brief hour in the company of mountain gorillas.

The U.S. State Department and the British Foreign Office had issued warnings about fighting in western and northern Uganda, but the park they were visiting, the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, was considered safe.

Should the tourists have been warned of a political threat? Or were they reckless even to go at all, given the natural risks involved?

Now, let's put aside Uganda, put aside all of Africa, the continent comprising 15 of the 28 countries on the State Department's "Travel Warning" list.

Instead consider Austria, the land of edelweiss. Austria is instructive because most of the 38 people smothered by two avalanches there last month were tourists — skiers. Austria is also instructive because late last year the State Department briefly cautioned travelers to be wary of going there, detecting vague "threats to American interests."

Ultimately, better weather reports might have saved more lives than deep political intelligence.

Alternatively, look at Egypt. The risks there are no secret. Muslim fundamentalists trying to choke off the government's tourism revenue killed dozens of tourists between 1992 and mid-1997. But after a government crackdown, Egypt was considered a fairly safe destination on Nov. 16, 1997; it was on nobody's "don't go" list. The next day, 58 tourists were cut down at the Temple of Luxor, and tourism dropped 80 percent.

The point: Predicting danger for tourists is difficult, tour operators and foreign service officials say, and political danger may be the hardest to predict of all.

Who could have known that Islamic fundamentalists would set off a bomb last year in Kenya? Or, in a country like South Africa with a minuscule Muslim population, that a few anti-American Muslim fanatics would blow up a Planet Hollywood restaurant, killing not a single American (clearly, Americans were the desired target) but instead a South African banker, while maiming a British family?

"No one could have foreseen this," Sue Ockwell, a spokeswoman for Accia Expeditions in London, said of the attack last week in Uganda, which killed four of her tour group's clients. "The Foreign Office didn't, and our local contacts had no sense of danger."

It could be argued that someone could have sensed the danger.

Not too long ago, Hutu militias attacked a Ugandan village and killed nearly everyone in it. Gorilla trekking in Rwanda and the former Zaire died out because of guerrilla warfare. Moreover, diplomats and journalists working in east Africa were aware that some Hutu militants resented Americans and Britons.

But unlike the Egyptian fundamentalists, the Hutu militias had never announced any hostile intent toward tourists. On Wednesday a British newspaper reported the Ugandan government had received a threat in writing. Uganda denies it. "There was no warning," said Arthur Kafeero, a press officer at the Ugandan Embassy in London. "If there had been, preventive action would have been taken."

[The state-owned Sunday Vision reported that the Ugandan government has suspended treks to the habitat of the rare gorillas, Agence France-Presse reported from Kampala on Sunday. The month-long suspension covers visits to both the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, where the tourists were killed, and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, which is further south.]

Keeping travelers apprised of dangers is very much on the minds of Western governments. Most of the 28 countries on the State Department's "don't go" list, however, are fairly obvious threats. They are either at war, or have public, government-endorsed bouts of anti-American feeling. Among the former are Bosnia, Angola, Rwanda, Burundi, the

two Congos, Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau. Among the latter are Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Afghanistan and Serbia. (The list's glaring exception is Montserrat, which is in danger of being buried in volcanic ash.)

Yet no country is on the list simply because it has a high crime rate, although consular information sheets on every country in the world include warnings about crime. "Just because a country isn't on the travel warning list, it's important not to be lulled into thinking it's completely safe," a State Department spokeswoman said.

The problem is that crime is spotty, so it wouldn't be useful or fair to stigmatize an entire country over its crime rate. For example, crime has closed all the luxury hotels in downtown Johannesburg, but tourists happily stay in newer hotels in safer northern Johannesburg and then return to the airport for flights to crime-free game parks and beaches.

American tourism, of course, is not immune to the crime problem. In 1993, after nine foreign tourists were killed in south Florida, Germany put Florida on its "don't go" list. Yet no one can credibly argue that all of America is unsafe.

Ms. Ockwell, of the British tour outfit, said that in an effort to get more timely safety updates, representatives of the British travel industry recently met with officials from the Foreign Office. Not surprisingly, that meeting was prompted by old news: the killing of three British tourists kidnapped by Yemeni tribesmen, and a government warning to Britons to shun Chile because of resentment over Britain's detention of General Augusto Pinochet, the former Chilean dictator.

The industry wanted better international coordination, and it wanted specific warnings: Tour promoters thought remote parks in Chile were safe for British tourists even if the capital, Santiago, was dicey.

But the meeting's agenda illustrated the problem: Yemen was discussed only after the fact; Uganda was not discussed. Foreign travel dangers often get noticed only after the worst has happened.

Uganda Kills 10 More Rebels

A Ugandan Army official said that Ugandan soldiers have killed 10 more Rwandan rebels in their continuing efforts to punish those responsible for killing the foreign tourists. The Associated Press reported from Mbarara, Uganda. The killings bring to 25 the number of rebels killed by Ugandan and Rwandan forces, Lieutenant Colonel Benon Biraaro said Saturday.

France Bestows Its Film Awards

The Associated Press

PARIS — France has honored its best in cinema at the annual Cesar awards, giving the top prize to "La Vieillesse des Anges" (The Dream Life of Angels), a first-time directorial effort by Erick Zouca, and crowning the film with two much-praised actresses with yet another laurel.

The film made a splash last year at the Cannes film festival, where its star, Houdie Bouchet, and Natacha Regnier, shared the best actress prize.

On Saturday, Miss Bouchet beat out the heavily favored Catherine Deneuve for best actress, while Miss Regnier won an award for most promising young actress.

Though Miss Deneuve's loss for her role in "Place Vendôme" was a surprise, there was no surprise in the winner for best foreign film: Roberto Benigni's "Life Is Beautiful," which has swept film festivals worldwide and has been nominated for a slew of American Oscars.

The best actor award went to Jacques Villaret for the comedy "Le Diner de Cons," and best supporting actor went to Daniel Prevost for the same film. The movie also won the award for best screenplay.

Best director went to Patrice Chéreau for "Coeur qui m'aiment" (The Heart That Loves Me Will Take the Train). That film also took the best supporting actress award for Dominique Blanc.

TRAVEL UPDATE

New York Opens Visitor Center

NEW YORK (NYT) — New York City has taken a step toward greater hospitality with the opening of a computerized visitor information center in midtown that is designed to help tourists navigate a maze of cultural offerings using state-of-the-art technology. Located at 810 Seventh Ave. at 53d St., the center will be open 365 days a year and offer information and ticket sales to numerous events. Hours are 8:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. on weekdays and 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. weekends.

Mexico Imposes a Tourist Fee

MEXICO CITY (LAT) — Mexicans have been squeezed for more than a year by their government's relentless budget cuts and tax increases, and soon foreign visitors will start feeling the pinch. On July 1, tourists who travel beyond the border region into Mexico will be charged a \$15 entry fee, with revenues — projected at more than \$120 million a year — going toward more modern immigration systems and more aggressive tourism promotion.

All foreign visitors who arrive by plane, travel by land more than 16 miles (25.6 kilometers) into the country or come ashore from cruise ships for more than 72 hours will be charged the fee. It will not be imposed on the millions of day visitors and workers who move back and forth in the border economy.

EgyptAir Loses Alcohol Ruling

CAIRO (AP) — In a ruling likely to have wide repercussions, an Appeal Court said Saturday that EgyptAir stewards have the right to refuse to serve alcoholic drinks because alcohol is banned by Islam, court officials said.

Four hostesses had sued the carrier for forcing them to serve alcoholic beverages in flight. The ruling could have a big impact if it is interpreted that bar, restaurant and hotel workers can refuse to serve alcohol on religious grounds.

This Week's Holidays

Banking and government offices may be closed or services curtailed in the following countries and their dependencies this week because of national and religious holidays:

MONDAY: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

WEDNESDAY: Burma.

THURSDAY: Lithuania.

FRIDAY: Liberia, Mauritius, Zambia.

Sources: Bloomberg, Reuters.

WEATHER

Forecast for Tuesday through Thursday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Europe				North America				Asia			
City	Today	High	Low	City	Today	High	Low	City	Today	High	Low
Algeria	10/12	11/23	8/10	Albuquerque	62/78	78/88	62/78	Algeria	62/78	78/88	62/78
Amsterdam	54/62	62/72	54/62	Boston	42/52	52/62	42/52	Amsterdam	42/52	52/62	42/52
Antwerp	54/62	62/72	54/62	Chicago	32/42	42/52	32/42	Antwerp	32/42	42/52	32/42
Athens	54/62	62/72	54/62	Columbus	32/42	42/52	32/42	Athens	32/42	42/52	32/42
Bahia	54/62	62/72	54/62	Dallas	32/42	42/52	32/42	Bahia	32/42	42/52	32/42
Bangkok	54/62	62/72	54/62	Denver	32/42	42/52	32/42	Bangkok	32/42	42/52	32/42
Bombay	54/62	62/72	54/62	Detroit	32/42	42/52	32/42	Bombay	32/42	42/52	32/42
Buenos Aires	54/62	62/72	54/62	Houston	32/42	42/52	32/42	Buenos Aires	32/42	42/52	32/42
Calcutta	54/62	62/72	54/62	Los Angeles	32/42	42/52	32/42	Calcutta	32/42	42/52	32/42
Cairo	54/62	62/72	54/62	Madrid	32/42	42/52	32/42	Cairo	32/42	42/52	32/42
Cardiff	54/62	62/72	54/62	Mexico City	32/42	42/52	32/42	Cardiff	32/42	42/52	32/42
Chennai	54/62	62/72	54/62	Minneapolis	32/42	42/52	32/42	Chennai	32/42	42/52	32/42
Colombo	54/62	62/72	54/62	New York	32/42	42/52	32/42	Colombo	32/42	42/52	32/42
Copenhagen	54/62	62/72	54/62	San Francisco	32/42	42/52	32/42	Copenhagen	32/42	42/52	32/42
Dakar	54/62	62/72	54/62	Seattle	32/42	42/52	32/42	Dakar	32/42	42/52	32/42
Dhaka	54/62	62/72	54/62	St. Louis	32/42	42/52	32/42	Dhaka	32/42	42/52	32/42
Dublin	54/62	62/72	54/62	Tampa	32/42	42/52	32/42	Dublin	32/42	42/52	32/42
Geneva	54/62	62/72	54/62	Washington	32/42	42/52	32/42	Geneva	32/42	42/52	32/42
Hanoi	54/62	62/72	54/62	Wichita	32/42	42/52	32/42	Hanoi	32/42	42/52	32/42
Hong Kong	54/62	62/72	54/62	Yokohama	32/42	42/52	32/42	Hong Kong	32/42	42/52	32/42
Jakarta	54/62	62/72	54/62					Jakarta	32/42	42/52	32/42
Jeddah	54/62	62/72	54/62					Jeddah	32/42	42/52	32/42
Kuala Lumpur	54/62	62/72	54/62					Kuala Lumpur	32/42	42/52	32/42
London	54/62	62/72	54/62					London	32/42	42/52	32/42
Los Angeles	54/62	62/72	54/62					Los Angeles	32/42	42/52	32/42
Lyons	54/62	62/72	54/62					Lyons	32/42	42/52	32/42
Manila	54/62	62/72	54/62					Manila	32/42	42/52	32/42
Moscow	54/62	62/72	54/62					Moscow	32/42	42/52	32/42
Mumbai	54/62	62/72	54/62					Mumbai	32/42	42/52	32/42
Nairobi	54/62	62/72	54/62					Nairobi	32/42	42/52	32/42
Paris	54/62	62/72	54/62					Paris	32/42	42/52	32/42
Rangoon	54/62	62/72	54/62					Rangoon	32/42	42/52	32/42
Rio de Janeiro	54/62	62/72	54/62					Rio de Janeiro	32/42	42/52	32/42
Rome	54/62	62/72	54/62					Rome	32/42	42/52	32/42
Sao Paulo	54/62	62/72	54/62					Sao Paulo	32/42	42/52	32/42
Seoul	54/62	62/72	54/62					Seoul	32/42	42/52	32/42
Shanghai	54/62	62/72	54/62					Shanghai	32/42	42/52	32/42
Singapore	54/62	62/72	54/62					Singapore	32/42	42/52	32/42
Sydney	54/62	62/72	54/62					Sydney	32/42	42/52	32/42
Taipei	54/62	62/72	54/62					Taipei	32/42	42/52	32/42
Tokyo	54/62	62/72	54/62					Tokyo	32/42	42/52	32/42
Ulaanbaatar	54/62	62/72	54/62					Ulaanbaatar	32/42	42/52	32/42
Yokohama	54/62	62/72	54/62					Yokohama	32/42	42/52	32/42

Legend: partly cloudy, pc; mostly cloudy, mc; clear, c; overcast, o; snow, s; rain, r; drizzle, dr; fog, f; ice, i; wind, w.

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THE AMERICAS

Gore's Polls: No. 2 Job Is No Help

By Richard L. Berke
New York Times Service

SAN FRANCISCO — Vice President Al Gore has only one declared rival for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2000. His party is delighted in its newfound popularity after impeachment, while President Bill Clinton is basking in impressive job approval ratings.

Why then is Mr. Gore, who has never provoked as much hostility from his foes as Mr. Clinton and who is widely regarded as the most involved vice president in modern times, performing so feebly in the polls?

With only a few exceptions, survey after survey shows that in a head-to-head matchup, Mr. Gore has less support than two Republicans who are planning to run, Governor George Bush of Texas and Elizabeth Hanford Dole.

In a Time/CNN poll released Friday, Mr. Bush leads Mr. Gore among adults nationwide by 52 percent to 41 percent. The survey also found that 60 percent thought Mr. Bush was strong and decisive, while only 39 percent said that of Mr. Gore.

Another poll, by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, found that President Clinton's popularity did not fully transfer. Among voters who approve of the job the president is doing, just 32 percent said there was a good chance they would vote for Mr. Gore.

There is no way to describe those numbers as positive for Mr. Gore. Even so, he might take solace in that his potential support may not be as fragile as the numbers suggest. For one thing, no matter how active he has been, Mr. Gore is still the vice president, and it has always been difficult for anyone in a president's shadow to develop a distinct persona before people begin to focus on the presidential competition.

Mr. Gore's advisers repeatedly invoke Vice President George Bush, who at this point in the 1988 campaign lagged far behind two Democrats, Gary Hart and Michael Dukakis, only to roar from behind to win the White House. A Gallup Poll conducted in January 1987 found that Mr. Bush was trailing Mr. Hart by 38 percent to 51 percent.

Turning to the current situation, Mark Penn, who conducts polls for Mr. Gore, as well as for Mr. Clinton, said: "He's not really seen right now as a presidential candidate but as a vice president. Historically, vice presidents start out in horse races somewhat lower. Bush was significantly behind Hart and Dukakis."

William McInturff, a Republican pollster, concedes that he made the identical argument on behalf of Mr. Bush in 1987. "If I were a Gore loyalist," Mr. McInturff said, "I could substitute all of my quotes — scratch Bush and put in Gore — because some of it is endemic to being the vice president. People have no real sense of who he is."

Still, Mr. McInturff was taken aback by the figures. "It's really stunning how bad off he is," he said. "Anybody who's been a well-known Republican is clocking the guy. My uncharitable view is that Gore is a stiff and that in comparison to Clinton he has nowhere near the skills." Mr. McInturff's candidate this time around, Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, still registers far behind Mr. Gore.

The outpouring for Mr. Bush and Mrs. Dole may be misleading because of their peculiar circumstances. They have very high name recognition. But people may have extraordinarily idealized notions of their views because no one really knows how Mr. Bush or Mrs. Dole stand on most national or international issues. Mr. Penn calls it "a glow factor that's untested."

Mr. Gore, who was in San Francisco this week on his 53d trip to



Mr. Gore talking to students at Helen Keller School in New York.

California as vice president, dismissed the polls as "unreliable." An analysis this week by the Pew Research Center asserts that Vice President Bush's weaknesses in

1987 "may have reflected mixed views of the administration," while Mr. Gore's "position in the polls today may have more to do with his own image problems."

POLITICAL NOTES

Tripp Blasts Lewinsky's Story

WASHINGTON — Monica Lewinsky's story of her relationship with President Bill Clinton was "fiction, fable, fantasy, farce and fairy tale," Linda Tripp, the woman who befriended and betrayed the ex-White House intern, said on Sunday.

In her first interview since Ms. Lewinsky's televised appearances and book release last week, the Pentagon public affairs specialist also attacked Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Mrs. Clinton "was complicit in the time that I was there in virtually every scandal," Mrs. Tripp said on the ABC program "This Week," adding that if the first lady ran for the U.S. Senate in New York "many things would be a problem once they surfaced."

Mrs. Tripp set off the scandal when she secretly taped Ms. Lewinsky's conversations about her affair with the president and turned the tapes over to the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr.

After working in the White House for the Bush and Clinton administrations, Mrs. Tripp was transferred to the Pentagon in 1994. She met Ms. Lewinsky when the intern was also transferred there.

Ms. Lewinsky has been scathing in her criticism of Mrs. Tripp, saying she felt her former confidant betrayed her.

On Sunday, Andrew Morton, author of Ms. Lewinsky's version of events, "Monica's Story," said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that the former intern viewed Mrs. Tripp as "the devil incarnate." (Reuters)

Connie Mack to Leave Senate

WASHINGTON — Senator Connie Mack of Florida, the third-ranking member of the chamber's Republican leadership, will announce this week he is not seeking a third term next year, according to people close to him.

Mr. Mack, 58, had collected nearly \$3 million for a reelection campaign, but stirred speculation that he might retire when he told reporters last month he had not made up his mind about running again.

Other Republicans, including Governor Jeb Bush of Florida, have strongly urged Mr. Mack to run again. But Mr. Mack, who is an advocate of term limits, was said by friends to be eager to pursue life outside the Senate.

Word of Mr. Mack's plans spread when he started informing friends, family members and Senate colleagues of his decision. He plans a public announcement Saturday in Fort Myers, Florida, aides said. (WP)

Away From Politics

• The number of Americans killed in fires is dropping dramatically, thanks to such safety improvements as smoke detectors, sprinklers and child-proof lighters. In 1997, fire deaths totaled 4,050, down from 6,215 in 1988, says the National Fire Protection Association. (WP)

• Florida's largest electric utility has been ordered to pay \$37.3 million to the family of a 12-year-old girl who was killed in a traffic accident two years ago. Jill Goldberg died in 1997 when her mother's car was hit at an intersection in Miami where a traffic light hung dark. Workers for Florida Power & Light Co. had shut off power to repair a downed line and had not noticed they also had cut power to the traffic signal. (AP)

Welcome to the Biggest Little Presidential Campaign in Texas

By Dan Balz
Washington Post Service

AUSTIN, Texas — David Miner, a Republican state representative from North Carolina, arrived here last week carrying what has become the most coveted political invitation in the country: lunch at the governor's mansion with Governor George Bush of Texas.

"I believe it was beef," a starry-eyed Mr. Miner said later of the menu. "But I was so excited by seeing the kind of candidate that we haven't had in a long time, I didn't pay much attention to what I was eating."

State Representative Chuck Larson of Iowa had coffee with Mr. Bush on Feb. 8. Politicians from Iowa, whose precinct caucuses kick off the presidential nominating process, normally wait for candidates to come to them.

But Mr. Larson was one of a dozen Iowa legislators who chartered two planes that day to fly to Austin, and he did not leave disappointed.

"We have had an opportunity to meet Steve Forbes and Dan Quayle and the others, and they're all very sharp and competent and capable," Mr. Larson said of other candidates. "But after meeting George Bush, you

know that if he runs, he will be the next president of the United States."

The Texas capital is in the grip of a phenomenon that may be unique in the annals of presidential campaign start-ups. As a slew of other Republican candidates make pilgrimages to Iowa and New Hampshire and struggle for money, media attention and political support, the world is rushing to George Bush's door.

Almost every day now, the heavy metal gate on the back side of the governor's mansion here slides open around noon and a group of prospective recruits for Mr. Bush's presidential campaign enters for an audience with the governor.

The supply appears endless: politicians hoping to find a winner, curious business executives, eager fund-raisers, operatives looking for a piece of the action and a procession of policy experts who represent many of the best and brightest in the Republican Party. Demand is so heavy that Mr. Bush's staff is booking visits for April.

Bush allies say the visits reflect a genuine grass-roots movement by Republicans desperate to recapture the White House in 2000. Cynics say it is a carefully calculated effort by

Mr. Bush's team to create an aura of inevitability around the campaign of someone who has served just four years and seven weeks in elective office and is untested in national politics.

Whichever the case, Mr. Bush was to begin his presidential campaign here Sunday afternoon by unveiling an exploratory committee stocked with names in the Republican establishment as well as members of the governor's generation, and blessed with the kind of institutional support that is extraordinary for a first-time candidate. The undertaking was bound to be burdened by what Mr. Bush's press secretary, Karen Hughes, calls "stratospherically high expectations" that can only mean trouble in the months ahead.

"They're engaged in the easy part of being a front-runner, which is rolling out the people," said Mike Murphy, a Republican media consultant not aligned with any campaign. "The most difficult thing is making sure you spell the names right of everyone endorsing you." Mr. Bush's advisers claim they are keeping their feet on the ground, although some people here have begun to doubt that, sensing that some of those around the governor have been caught up in the hype

of the rush to clamber aboard the campaign. "It is one of the best noncampaigns going," said one Bush ally who has been a frequent visitor to the governor's mansion.

"The fact that the noncampaign has been so successful makes it frightening to start the real campaign." Perhaps, but the Bush camp would not trade places with any of the governor's rivals for the Republican nomination.

Mr. Bush decided months ago he would not travel to places like Iowa and New Hampshire while the Texas Legislature was in session this spring, a questionable strategy given the organizational demands in those states. But the Bush campaign has been taking shape here day by day, and whatever qualms Mr. Bush has had about putting his family through a grueling presidential campaign appear to have been resolved.

Despite Mr. Bush's vow to concentrate on his state legislative agenda, his presidential campaign is absorbing large portions of many days as he bones up on domestic and international issues. Mr. Bush has taken part in half a dozen policy briefings in recent weeks, four-hour sessions that have covered health policy, the underclass, Social Security, Medicare and defense policy.

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Clinton Aides Admit Serious Security Lapses on Espionage by Chinese

By David E. Sanger
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Two of President Bill Clinton's top advisers have said that an investigation into China's acquisition of U.S. nuclear weapons technology showed enormous lapses in security at the Energy Department's laboratories in the 1980s, and they acknowledged that they moved too slowly to solve the problems during Mr. Clinton's first term.

The comments, in response to an article in The New York Times on Saturday detailing a federal investigation into how China was able to copy the most advanced miniature nuclear warhead, known as the W-88, came Saturday from the president's national security adviser, Samuel Berger, and Energy Secretary Bill Richardson.

"The information that we were

provided in 1997 made clear that there was a serious security problem at the national labs dating back to the mid-1980s, which we were going to deal with in a systematic and comprehensive way," Mr. Berger said.

The authority to tighten security and begin a major counterintelligence push at the laboratories arose from a directive signed by Mr. Clinton in February 1998, after a nine-month investigation into security lapses at Los Alamos National Laboratory and other laboratories.

But Mr. Richardson said "the major reforms were instituted in October 1998, a month after I came in" as energy secretary, succeeding Federico Pena.

In other words, the tightening happened nine months after Mr. Clinton's order was signed, and 18 months after the details of the security breach were first relayed to the White House.

The administration's critics say the delays indicated that the White House was playing down the severity of the reports to avoid derailing the effort to put relations with China on a better footing.

Mr. Berger and other officials deny that.

At the same time, senior administration officials say Mr. Richardson, who previously served as chief delegate to the United Nations, was not briefed on the investigation until a month after joining the Energy Department. Even then, it came from an Energy Department official, Nora Trulock, who first raised questions about the Los Alamos case, rather than from the National Security Council or the FBI.

Asked to explain the delays, senior administration officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that despite

Mr. Clinton's directive in early 1998, the Energy Department moved extremely slowly.

Mr. Pena announced his decision to leave the department in the spring of 1998, and major decisions were held in abeyance. "Things were kind of hanging out there," until Mr. Richardson's arrival, one official said.

The main suspect in the warhead case was identified only as a Chinese-American computer scientist at the Los Alamos laboratory in New Mexico. But it was not the first time the administration was made aware of security breaches there.

In December 1997, Peter Lee, a physicist, admitted in a plea bargain agreement that in 1985 he gave China classified information involving the use of lasers to simulate nuclear detonations.

Former officials of the Bush and Reagan administrations say that, in re-

spect, the government was remarkably lax about lab security in the 1980s, even during the Reagan-era arms buildup.

"It is quite clear now that things were far too casual," said James Lilley, U.S. ambassador to China from 1989 to 1991 and after that a senior Defense Department official. Mr. Lilley, also a former CIA operative in China, said: "This has been going on for a long, long time. We had Ministry of State Security defectors and other Chinese who became agents, and they made it clear that this was a top priority of their industrial and intelligence apparatuses."

While Mr. Lilley blamed the two Republican administrations he served in, he added that the Clinton administration was "caught in bureaucratic struggles between the Energy Department and the FBI, and the Chinese saw that we were still sitting ducks" in the early to mid-

1990s. But Mr. Lilley said Washington should not disrupt its dealings with Beijing because of its spying.

"You've got to get some maturity into the relationship with China," he said, arguing that the United States could deepen its economic engagement "while still restricting high technology exports and breaking up their espionage rings."

The view in Congress may be different. The steady drip of disclosures about Beijing's efforts to obtain U.S. technology may lead Congress to derail efforts for China to join the World Trade Organization — an objective of the Chinese for many years.

■ Senator Urges More Vigilance

The Senate Intelligence Committee chairman, Richard Shelby, criticized the Clinton administration Sunday for moving too slowly to tighten security after a major leak of nuclear secrets to China was discovered in 1997, Reuters reported from Washington.

"We've been pushing, we've been prodding the administration to do more, to tighten up security," the Alabama Republican said on the NBC News program "Meet the Press."

"I think they're beginning to, but it's been a long time," Mr. Shelby said. "They waited a long time. They could have done more. They could have done more immediately. It will damage, if it hasn't already damaged our national security in a big, big way."

Mr. Shelby said Congress would hold hearings as soon as possible to look into the leak of secrets to China in the mid-1980s and the administration's subsequent investigation.

"The attitude of lax security is going to do more damage to our national security than what we've seen in these newspaper articles," Mr. Shelby said.

BRIEFLY

North Koreans Vote In Local Elections

SEOUL — North Korea held its first local elections in five years Sunday in a move that experts said was expected to strengthen the power of its leader, Kim Jong Il.

Voters are electing elect about 20,000 deputies to serve four years on provincial, city and county councils, according to South Korean analysts.

The elections, the first since December 1993, proceeded smoothly "with all the voters turning out with high revolutionary enthusiasm," the North's Korean Central News Agency quoted election officials as saying. (AP)

Opposition Activist Freed in Singapore

SINGAPORE — The opposition politician Chee Soon Juan was freed Sunday after serving 12 days in prison over a public speech he made without a permit.

Mr. Chee made the speech Jan. 5 in Singapore's central business district, where he stood and read parts of the state's constitution. He was jailed after refusing to pay a \$1,470 fine.

Wong Tong Hoy, assistant secretary-general of Mr. Chee's Singapore Democratic Party, was also released. He was jailed for helping Mr. Chee make the speech by adjusting his microphone. (AP)

Dalai Lama Called Anti-China Plotter

BEIJING — Marking the March 10, 1959, anniversary of a failed uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet, China's state-run media accused the Dalai Lama on Sunday of fomenting unrest and plotting with "anti-China forces in the world."

The Xinhu press agency described the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader as the "major source of social disturbances in Tibet."

The Dalai Lama, who was the Nobel Peace laureate in 1989, fled Tibet during the 1959 uprising but has remained the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists both in exile and in his homeland. (AP)

Sri Lankan Troops Seize Rebel Area

COLOMBO — Sri Lankan troops pursuing a new offensive in the north have captured a large amount of territory formerly held by Tamil Tiger rebels, the Defense Ministry said Sunday.

The ministry said in a statement that about 535 square kilometers (205 square miles) were captured in the operation, which was begun Thursday. It added that the forces were consolidating their hold in the area.

The statement did not mention casualties, and there was no comment from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. (Reuters)

For the Record

India and Pakistan have agreed to release a total of 61 nonpolitical prisoners in the next three weeks, 18 Indian nationals who are currently jailed in Pakistan and 43 Pakistanis held in India, in an attempt to improve relations. (AP)

Cambodian Troops Arrest Last Khmer Rouge Chief

By Chris Seper
Washington Post Service

PHNOM PENH — The Cambodian military has arrested the last fugitive leader of the Khmer Rouge and pledged to bring him to trial before a national genocide tribunal.

The capture of Ta Mok on Saturday marked the first time a senior Khmer Rouge leader had been arrested for his role in the group's four-year period in power in the late 1970s, when more than 1 million Cambodians were killed or died from starvation, torture or neglect.

A recent United Nations report called for an international tribunal to try Khmer Rouge leaders, but government officials seem intent on a single, locally conducted trial just for Mr. Ta Mok.

Om Yinteng, an adviser to Prime Minister Hun Sen, said he did not think an international tribunal would be necessary after a local trial for Mr. Ta Mok.

All other remaining Khmer Rouge leaders have received amnesty under government peace deals.

Mr. Om Yinteng said: "We will use Cambodian law and a Cambodian tribunal. That should be enough."

Mr. Ta Mok, a one-legged military chieftain known as "the Butcher," is considered one of the Khmer Rouge's most violent and hard-line members.

Unlike many of the group's leaders, who are considered architects of the Communist killing machine, Mr. Ta Mok is said to have been directly involved in violent internal purges and other massacres.

He has been the de facto leader of the Khmer Rouge rebels since a shake-up in 1997 that placed Pol Pot, the founder and longtime leader of the group, under house arrest by the Khmer Rouge until he died last year.

Diplomats and government officials said Mr. Ta Mok had been surrounded by government troops near the Thai border and captured along with a small number of troops and family members.

■ Government Pledges a Trial

Khieu Kanharith, a government spokesman, said Mr. Ta Mok would face trial in Cambodia, casting doubt on the government's willingness to see senior Khmer Rouge officials tried in an international court. The Associated Press reported.

Mr. Khieu Kanharith said: "He was arrested under the law outlawing the Khmer Rouge. But please wait for the prosecutor's investigation. The charges could include everything."

UN legal experts have recommended the creation of an international tribunal to try senior Khmer Rouge leaders.

Although the Cambodian government has not ruled out an international trial, Mr. Hun Sen has responded coolly to the UN experts' recommendation, saying he favored the creation of a South African-style truth commission to investigate the brutalities of the regime.

The United States, the staunchest supporter of an international tribunal, has welcomed the arrest of Mr. Ta Mok and promised to assist Cambodia's efforts to bring the Khmer Rouge chief to justice.

James Rubin, a U.S. State Department spokesman, said: "We are encouraged that we now have the opportunity to bring one of the most notorious war criminals in the recent past to justice, and we will now be focusing our efforts on working with the Cambodian government to that end."



FLIGHT FOR PEACE — Thousands of Filipinos releasing doves Sunday at a peace rally in Manila. The crowd urged Communist rebels to release captive military officers and called for a negotiated peace.

3 Militant Groups Threaten Americans

Pakistan-Based Extremists Tied to bin Laden Issue Death Warnings

By Kamran Khan
and Kenneth J. Cooper
Washington Post Service

KARACHI, Pakistan — Three Muslim militant groups based in Pakistan, angry about the killings of some of their comrades last August when the U.S. bombed terrorist training camps in neighboring Afghanistan, are threatening revenge killings against Americans.

The threats to retaliate come mainly from Harkat Ansar, which has been designated a terrorist organization by the United States.

The group is suspected of having had a role in the 1995 kidnapping and likely killing of four Western tourists, includ-

ing an American, Donald Hutchings, in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.

"At least seven Harkat members were killed and two dozen were wounded in the U.S. attacks on six training camps linked to Osama bin Laden, the suspected terrorist who has been charged in the Aug. 7 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania."

At a news conference in Islamabad following the Aug. 20 U.S. assault on camps near Khosht and Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan, Harkat leaders vowed that the harm done to its members would not go unanswered.

In recent interviews here in Pakistan's largest city, Harkat leaders and others issued their first specific public threat to retaliate against Americans.

"The veterans of the Khosht bombing form the nucleus of Osama bin Laden loyalists, whose sole mission in life is to settle the score with the United States," said a senior Harkat member, who requested anonymity.

"For each of us killed or wounded in the cowardly U.S. attack, at least 100 Americans will be killed," the Harkat member said. "I may not be alive, but you will remember my words."

Other Harkat sources predicted that the organization would exact "bloody retaliation" for the Clinton administration's attempt to strike at Mr. bin Laden for the embassy bombings.

The militant group has maintained close ties to Mr. bin Laden since it was formed in the 1980s to join Islamic guerrillas in their successful decade-long fight to oust the Soviet Army from Afghanistan.

Since that war ended in 1989, Harkat has sent a large number of Muslim militants from Pakistan across an unrecognized border dividing the disputed Himalayan territory of Kashmir to fight security forces in Indian-controlled areas.

Harkat and other militant Pakistani groups were using Mr. bin Laden's camps to provide military training to their members, according to U.S., Indian and other intelligence agencies.

Lee James Irwin, spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, indicated Friday that officials there had received no written threats against Americans from Harkat or any other Pakistani group.

But a senior official in Washington said such threats have surfaced through intelligence channels. The official said that Harkat is believed to be capable of carrying out its threats and to be closely tied to Mr. bin Laden.

Militant Muslim groups are suspected of killing six Americans in two Karachi street shootings, security officials said. Those attacks, still unsolved, claimed the lives of two U.S. consulate employees in 1995 and four oil company workers in 1997.

21 Die as India Air Force Plane Crashes Near New Delhi Airport

The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — An Indian Air Force transport plane crashed amid a cluster of huts near the airport here Sunday, exploding in a ball of fire and killing 21 people, officials said.

The Russian-built Antonov-32 suddenly veered off its landing path, clipped a brick boundary wall and vaulted into a drinking water reservoir, flattening dozens of brick shacks used by construction workers building the water tanks, witnesses said.

Six others were injured in the accident, which left the front half of the plane embedded in the water tank and its truncated tail end lying in a heap of blackened, twisted metal on the ground.

The airport, which handles international, domestic and military flights, was closed to traffic but later reopened.

It was the second air accident in three days in India. On Friday, an Air France cargo plane crash-landed in the

southern city of Madras. The plane was burned to a skeleton, but only one member of the five-person crew was injured.

The air force launched an inquiry into the accident Sunday and civil and military officials were unwilling to make immediate comment on the likely cause. Denzil Keeler, a retired air marshal, told STAR-TV that the airport had been suddenly enveloped in thick fog that reduced visibility to nearly zero and that the aircraft apparently had undershot the runway.

"It was clear early in the morning," said Budhan Singh Kaur, a witness who was not hurt, "but later there was a thick wave of fog."

Sheila Dixit, chief minister of the state of New Delhi, said 18 people on board the plane and three civilians on the ground were confirmed dead.

The plane was flying in from Gwalior in central India when it went down about 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) from the airport, the Press Trust reported.

100,000 Muslims Protest in Jakarta

Reuters

JAKARTA — More than 100,000 Muslims marched through the streets of the Indonesian capital Sunday to protest the military's failure to quell Christian-Muslim bloodshed that has killed more than 200 people.

Forming a column 2 kilometers long, they chanted as they walked 20 kilometers to the historic Al Azhar mosque in southern Jakarta. They dispersed peacefully after the march.

The rally was the largest in a series of Muslim protests over fighting on the eastern island of Ambon, about 2,300 kilometers east of Jakarta. More than 200 people have been killed in Ambon and nearby islands in two months.

Earlier Sunday, Indonesia's military sent a special team of senior officers to the battered island to help restore peace.

AIRLINES: Concerns Are Growing Over Shifting of Passengers to Less-Safe Carriers

Continued from Page 1

tabilitating liability in a code-sharing crash, many airline executives maintain that the rush to book up with carriers that have statistically poorer safety records has left U.S. carriers open to lawsuits for crashes overseas.

Others say airlines face a moral dilemma as well.

"I believe airlines enter into alliances because it's to their advantage economically," said Kenneth Mead, Transportation Department inspector-general, who has begun a formal investigation of the safety implications of these marketing partnerships. "That's a legitimate objective. There's a corresponding obligation along with it — a safety obligation."

The Defense Department has also told airlines that any carrier that wants a piece of the government's \$1.2 billion yearly travel bill must assure officials that their foreign partners have safety standards that are "substantially equivalent" to those of the U.S. carrier.

Under code-sharing, one airline buys a block of tickets on another airline's

flight and lists the flight in reservation systems under its name, or "code."

The tickets will read as if the passengers are flying on a U.S. carrier, even though they actually transfer to a plane flown by another airline.

Passengers are supposed to be notified, but many pay little attention until they show up at the gate and find themselves boarding a plane of a different color.

Code-sharing is attractive for airlines because it increases feeder traffic on domestic routes and makes an airline's international reach seem much greater.

U.S. government employees and military personnel are particularly affected because they usually travel under contracts that require use of specific airline routes. These contracts favor U.S. airlines under "fly America" rules.

But code-shares qualify as "fly America" flights even if the trip is on a foreign airline that is totally outside the jurisdiction of the Federal Aviation Administration or the safety audit requirements written into Defense Department contracts. Swissair Flight 111, for instance, was popular with government

officials traveling to Geneva, the site of many international negotiations.

"The processes in place today were developed before code-sharing," said Mary Lou McHugh, assistant deputy undersecretary of defense for transportation policy. "They need to be adapted to reflect the new realities of an increasingly global airline industry."

Airlines have had to engage in a delicate dance with their foreign partners, seeking ways to bolster their level of training and oversight without being accused of safety imperialism.

Efforts to impose U.S. aviation standards on the rest of the world, including a congressional mandate to upgrade anti-terrorism standards, have been denounced by some foreign governments as arrogant interference in their affairs.

Some U.S. airlines have had to make odd arrangements with proud foreign carriers, such as when United Airlines agreed to provide pilot training to a foreign airline in exchange for jungle survival training for United personnel. Michael Holland of the New York law firm of Condon & Forsyth LLP, which is

advising Delta and Swissair in crash litigation, said there was a major benefit in a safety reputation.

Airlines must understand that helping their partners reach a higher level of safety is "the progressive thing to do," even though some airline legal departments advise against it. "Morally, from the point of view of the aviation industry, it's a good thing," he said.

The Defense Department began auditing the safety of airlines that fly military personnel after a charter airline crash in Gander, Newfoundland, killed 256 soldiers in 1985. Two years ago, the Defense Department broached the idea of extending audits to foreign code-share airlines, but ran into stiff opposition from the State Department and the Transportation Department.

But the Defense Department apparently decided it had had enough. It was stuck in a position in which it gave thousands of military personnel no choice but to fly on foreign code-share partners that it could not audit, even though the tickets were being sold by U.S. airlines that were subject to audit.

EUROPE

At the Reichstag, History and Its Horrors Are Laid Bare

By Roger Cohen
New York Times Service

BERLIN — E. Kennedy, an American soldier, was here May 13, 1945.
So, too, a couple of days later, was one Lucia Petrova of the Red Army. Both wrote their names on the walls of the Reichstag just after its capture at the end of World War II, and today their jubilant graffiti are visible once again.
History — a staggering concentration of it — has been laid bare in the Reichstag before it becomes the seat of the German Parliament again next month, 66 years after a fire there summed up Hitler's view of parliamentary democracy.
So bare like the past, in fact, that even the vulgar anti-German insults of victorious Soviet soldiers, scrawled across the interior of the building in 1945, have been exposed by removing fake plasterboard walls put up to cover them in the 1960s.
"Our approach was radical, based in the view that the history of the building should not be sanitized," said Sir Norman Foster, the British architect who has rebuilt the Reichstag. "And the fact that Germany accepted this approach shows to me what an extraordinarily open and progressive society it has become."
Certainly, there is something "open" if not plain masochistic, about Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's going past Russian obscenities to

reach his blue-doored parliamentary office. Mr. Schröder's father died in 1944 on his way back from the Russian front.
The new glass dome on the building also speaks of postwar Germany's overriding preoccupation with transparency. It is an architectural coup that has become the symbol of the new Berlin skyline and is as bold as I.M. Pei's glass pyramid at the Louvre in Paris.
But openness is by no means the whole story. The return to the Reichstag, symbol of German democracy but also of disaster, has provided the occasion for a national debate of quintessentially German tortuousness.
Perhaps that was inevitable, for when Sir Norman hands over a symbolic Reichstag key to Wolfgang Thierse, the parliamentary speaker, on April 19, the gesture will at once open the new Parliament and usher in the new "Berlin Republic," rising where the ruins of Nazi Germany lay 54 years ago.
"I don't believe the nonsense about some evil spirit lurking there," said Michael Cullen, a Berlin-based historian. "Hitler only set foot in the place three times. But this is a new beginning for Germany, one decided without a plebiscite, so the tension between past and future is understandable."

Behind the debate lies an evident concern that bringing Parliament back to the massive gray stone edifice erected under Bismarck in 1894 may tempt the various ghosts — of imperialism, of fascism, of communism and of plain old tragedy — that have inhabited or surrounded the Reichstag in the last century.
The tension has taken several forms.
First, there was the problem of the eagle, symbol of Germany. A bird, in most places, is a bird. But not in Germany, where Hitler often spoke, as at Nuremberg in 1934, in front of towering, sharp-clawed eagles.
Should the eagle remain the pudgy thing, known affectionately as "the fat hen," that has long adorned the glass Bundestag building in Bonn, or should the eagle recover a touch of Prussian virility for the return to the Reichstag in Berlin?
After studying more than 235 eagles that have appeared in Prussian and German history, Sir Norman came up with a creature that was "leaner and keener." The bird, he said, had "a twinkle in its eye and was more dynamic, a touch playful, not in repose but in flight."
But after exhaustive debate, his proposal was rejected last year by the 35-member committee overseeing the reconstruction. The heirs to Lud-

wig Gies, the artist who designed the Bonn eagle, had objected.
So now a 8-by-6 meter (26-by-21-foot) eagle that is 60 percent bigger than the Bonn bird but of the same form, hangs in the 669-member chamber of the Reichstag. With public galleries protruding above mauve seats seemingly lifted from the nearest office equipment store, the docile Rhine-land eagle adds to a feeling of informal intimacy, the very opposite of Prussian militarism.
After the bird brouhaha came the Reich rumpus. "Reich" means empire. But there is no more German empire. So should the Reichstag change its name to Bundestag, as Mr. Thierse has suggested? Or should it become the Plenarbereich (Plenary Area), as several other members of Parliament have argued? Or perhaps the Reichstagsgebäude (Reichstag building)?
Referring to the Finance Ministry's imminent move from Bonn to a Berlin building that was once the Nazi-era Air Ministry, Werner Schulz of the Green Party said: "Of course the Reichstag's name should be changed. Who would call the new Finance Ministry the Reichsfinanzministerium?"
Who indeed? But "Reichstag" appears likely to stick, as it has through an extraordinary history. This has included being a center of war propaganda during World War I, the Parliament of the Weimar Republic and the site of a Nazi exhibition in 1938 on "The Eternal Jew."

A glass dome speaks of a postwar preoccupation with transparency.



Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer talking Sunday with a Greens party spokeswoman, Antje Radcke, center, and Gunda Roedel, a party co-leader, during the second day of the movement's congress in Erfurt.

German Greens in Crisis

Following String of Failures in Government, Fischer Calls for Party Reforms at Congress

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ERFURT, Germany — Germany's Greens, facing a crisis over their performance in government, were locked in a power struggle Sunday at a congress that had been aimed at rallying the demoralized ecologists.
Speculation grew that Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer would try to take control of the party, which has seen its main policy commitments diluted or delayed by Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's Social Democrats.
The struggle stifled a debate over how the Greens could update their traditional concerns of pacifism, ecology and civil rights.
Young Germans are turning away from the party's graying anti-establishment ideals, which do not quite address their top concerns, while loyal founding members question whether compromising on party goals, such as phasing out nuclear energy, are a price worth paying for influential government posts.
At a weekend convention that ended Sunday, Greens leaders warned their party that it faced a slow death unless it renewed its image and ideas.

"We have become boring in our visions, and we have great difficulties making practical politics," said Mr. Fischer, the chief strategist behind the Greens' rise to power.
Founded in 1980 by anti-nuclear activists, environmentalists and feminists, the Greens struggled over the weekend with how to revamp their party without becoming too much like the others.
"Our success depends on our being able to stand up for our goals, even if we do make compromises," said Kerstin Müller, the leading Greens lawmaker.
Taking issue with suggestions that German voters no longer cared about Green issues, Mr. Fischer said the problem lay more with the party's arcane internal structures, which he said were weakening the ecologists in policy battles with Mr. Schröder.
"We have to combine our visions with what is actually possible to achieve," he told 700 delegates at the congress in the eastern city of Erfurt.
"We have to learn how to govern and how to go out and campaign."
The Greens have never had one

overall leadership function. Party officials are chosen according to quotas for men and women, East and West Germans, moderates and radicals.
Mr. Fischer rejected as nonsense a magazine report that he and other

leading moderates would mount a bid to take full control of the party and he sought to reassure left-wingers that he was not against the party's gender quota.
But leading radicals were not con-

vinced. "This makes me absolutely mad," Kerstin Müller, parliamentary whip, said Saturday to long applause. "We all know that when the Greens talk of structure reform, it's all about a battle for power."
(Reuters, AP)

Moscow Is Evacuating Last Aides in Chechnya

MOSCOW — Russia was evacuating its last official representatives from the break-away region of Chechnya on Sunday after the kidnapping of a high-ranking Russian officer, an Interior Ministry spokesman said.
He said staff members representing the Russian president and government were scheduled to leave at midday as a precaution, after the Interior Ministry's representative in Chechnya, General Major Gennadi Shpigun, was grabbed on Friday.
Chechnya has been plagued by lawlessness since its separatist leadership scaled a peace accord with Moscow more than two years ago, under which Russia pulled its troops out of the region.
Moscow says Chechnya remains part of Russia but the southern region has achieved de facto independence.
(Reuters)

Pope Beatifies 10 More For Possible Sainthood

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II, already credited for more than half of the beatifications performed in the last 400 years, added 10 more people Sunday to the church's list of potential saints.
Of the 1,611 faithful beatified since 1605, when the Vatican codified the church's last formal step before sainthood, 619 of them have been accorded the honor by this Pope, whose papacy began in 1978. John Paul has also named 276 saints.
Of the 10 names added to the church's roll call of the blessed, 8 of them were men who died for their faith during the Spanish Civil War.
Beatification, though, is not a guarantee of sainthood. While one miracle is required to be beatified, a second one is needed for a person to be named a saint.
(AP)

Local Austrian Voting May Favor a Rightist

VIENNA — Austrians began voting Sunday in three provincial elections that could rock the unstable grand coalition in Vienna and provoke an early general election.
A total of 1.23 million people, or more than a fifth of the voting population, are eligible to vote for the regional parliaments of Salzburg, Tyrol and Carinthia.
With the conservative People's Party, led by Foreign Minister Wolfgang Schüssel, expected to remain in power in Tyrol and Salzburg, the focus is clearly on Carinthia.
Polls suggest the far-right Freedom Party of populist Jörg Haider will emerge as the strongest force there.
(Reuters)

Israelis Vie on Quitting Lebanon

By Deborah Sontag
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — The Labor Party's candidate for prime minister in the coming elections, Ehud Barak, has succeeded in inserting new momentum into the volatile, personality-based election campaign by introducing an actual issue into the race — whether, and how soon, Israeli troops should withdraw from what is called the security zone along the border in southern Lebanon.
At Mr. Barak's initiative, bringing the boys home from the growingly dangerous zone emerged as the all-Israeli issue of the campaign, after a rapid growth of the conflict.
One after another, each of the candidates, all of whom have played a direct role in keeping the Israeli military entrenched in the Lebanese border zone, proclaimed that he would move out the army soonest, or most safely.
Opinion polls showed that most Israelis who were surveyed reacted suspiciously to the candidates, seeing their promises as mostly election gimmickry, attempts to capitalize on the grief that followed the deaths of seven Israelis in southern Lebanon within a week.
"The leaders of Israel's major parties are now misleading an entire people, allowing themselves to play with the public's emotions on a life-and-death matter," Uzi Benziman, a columnist for the leading newspaper Ha'aretz, said Friday.
Nonetheless, Mr. Barak ignited a genuinely substantive debate on the longstanding Israeli military presence in Lebanon that pointed up not only differences between the candidates but also disagreements within the ranks of the military as well.
It began when Mr. Barak, a former

general, promised a week ago that if he were elected he would manage to withdraw the army in a year.
"I promise you that if we create the next government we will be out of Lebanon by June 2000, with security assurances, and deep into talks with Syria," Mr. Barak said.
Yitzhak Mordechai, the Center Party candidate and another former general, followed suit, but he went even further toward meeting public opinion, saying

A rising death toll in the border zone has made it a key issue in coming elections.

that he would have the troops out even sooner.
Another former general, Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, went further. He proposed that there should be a delay in the election, scheduled for May 17, and the formation of an emergency unity government to bring the troops home even sooner than proposed by the election rivals.
It was unclear whether Mr. Sharon had floated a trial balloon with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's consent, or perhaps had acted on his own.
Mr. Netanyahu has railed against the idea of setting deadlines.
All three candidates, and almost everyone in Israel, want to see the troops come home after 17 years of fighting a low-level war against the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, or Party of God, guerrillas in Lebanon.
All three candidates say they believe that Syria controls Hezbollah and that Syria wants the Golan Heights returned in exchange for ending the guerrillas' fight against Israel. All three say a withdrawal from Lebanon has to involve neighboring Syria.

But in contrast to Mr. Netanyahu, Mr. Barak and Mr. Mordechai pledge to restart negotiations with Syria as an integral part of a withdrawal plan. They are buoyed by opinion polls, which consistently show that most Israelis support returning part of the Golan Heights to Syria to bring about peace.
"If the Syrians see that they are up against an honest and truthful negotiator who is capable of making decisions and carrying them out, we will be able to carry out speedy negotiations," Mr. Mordechai said in a policy statement printed on Friday in Yedioth Ahro-noth. "I can reveal here that had we carried out the Wye agreements, the Syrians, with American support, would have been ready to restart negotiations."
Mr. Mordechai was referring to the land-for-security peace pact negotiated in Wye, Maryland, in October, before he was dismissed as defense minister.
The agreement has been frozen by the Netanyahu government, which says the Palestinians are not complying.
Rather than Damascus, Mr. Netanyahu prefers to deal with Beirut, seeking Lebanese cooperation for the secure withdrawal of Israeli troops.
"The ball is now in the Lebanese court," Mr. Netanyahu wrote in a policy statement in Yedioth Ahro-noth.
None of the candidates advocates a unilateral withdrawal, a move supported by a substantial minority of Israelis who say a decisive action has to be taken to extricate Israel from a quagmire.
The candidates accept the Israeli Army's position — that such a withdrawal would serve to pull the fighting into northern Israel, because Hezbollah does not recognize the present border and has set its sights on the Galilee region of Israel as well.

British Balloon's Journey Ends in the Pacific

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Two British balloonists were safely rescued Sunday after splashing into the Pacific Ocean near Japan, ending their attempt to be the first to circumnavigate the globe in a hot-air balloon.
The British Cable and Wireless balloon dropped into ocean at 1:04 P.M., 200 miles (125 kilometers) off the coast of central Japan, according to an official from Japan's Maritime Safety Agency.
Speaking at a news conference after their rescue, the balloonists — Andy Elson, 55, and Colin Prescott, 48 — said they were forced down because of bad weather.

"I don't think we have failed," Mr. Elson said. "We have just found another way that doesn't work."
He added: "We have learned a lot of lessons from this. Maybe one of the lessons is that without the cooperation of the Chinese, it is not possible in the northern hemisphere."
But when Chinese aviation authorities refused permission for any British-registered balloons to enter their airspace, the balloonists were forced to track to the south, slowing their progress and complicating their navigation. The end came after cloud cover caused the solar batteries needed to operate the balloon's kerosene burners to run down.

Trying to get above the cloud, they picked up a lot of snow and ice on the outside of the balloon, forcing them to ditch.
The balloon had been in the air since taking off from southern Spain on Feb. 17, setting a record for longest time airborne. It had covered more than half of the 18,000-mile planned journey.
A rival British-Swiss duo aboard the Switzerland-based Breilinger Orbiter 3 crossed over Saudi Arabia early Sunday at 17,000 feet (5,600 meters), heading southeast of Mecca at 55 miles per hour (90 kilometers per hour). That team has covered more than 4,000 miles and took off Monday.
(AP, Reuters)

Cindy Crawford's Choice



Constellation
Stainless steel with diamond-set bezel.
OMEGA — Swiss made since 1848.

Omega -- my choice Cindy Crawford

Ω
OMEGA

The sign of excellence

http://www.omega.ch

INTERNATIONAL

With Eye on Post-Saddam Iraq, U.S. Pursues Policy of Bombs and Subversion

By Steven Lee Myers
and Tim Weiner
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — This week, an American diplomat named Frank Ricciardone will take on a new job. His mission is as simple as it is difficult: unify the fractured Iraqi opposition, topple Saddam Hussein and build a democratic nation from the ruins.

The Clinton administration has been pursuing the same goal on three tracks: bombing Iraq in a slow-motion war, supporting the opposition with words and ideas, plotting to subvert the soldiers and spies that support the Iraqi leader.

Toward that end, the United States has been striking Iraq from the air for 10 weeks now, and last week American planes loosed the biggest barrage of bombs since December.

The jets have struck at least 104 targets, 4 more than they hit during the major American and British barrage over four days last year, damaging or destroying surface-to-air missile sites, anti-aircraft artillery, radar towers and communications centers. In a report to Congress on

Wednesday, President Bill Clinton said Iraq's air defenses had been "degraded substantially."

"What we are working to do is to help create the political and military conditions that will permit a successful change of the regime," said Walter Slocombe, undersecretary of defense.

But Pentagon officials are among the first to acknowledge that bombs alone cannot topple Mr. Saddam.

The American military commander in the Gulf region has said repeatedly that the task of creating a legitimate alternative to Mr. Saddam appears impossible for now, given the disunity of the opposition.

For now, the hope for a coup rests on the impact of the tons of bombs falling on Iraqi military sites. But allies of the United States in the region, especially Saudi Arabia and Turkey, are increasingly impatient with the American program of bombs and subversion.

There has been no clear evidence so far that the bombings have eroded Mr. Saddam's power structure, best envisioned as a pyramid of perhaps 100 trusted men, sitting atop half a million soldiers, spies and political operatives.

Despite this, Mr. Ricciardone, named to the newly created position of policy coordinator, has said he envisions a sudden demise for the regime in Iraq, a country he knows.

In the mid-1980s, he helped try to normalize relations between the United States and Iraq. He was second-in-command of the shuttered American Embassy after the 1991 Gulf war, working out of Amman, Jordan, and London.

He is one among many in the administration who see political thunderclouds gathering over Mr. Saddam, though no one will predict when a storm might occur.

"Most likely, there will be a military coup," he said last week in an interview with a newspaper in Ankara. "It will be very sudden and without warning."

The president's national security adviser, Samuel Berger, said that Mr. Saddam's repeated efforts to shoot down American or British jets over Iraq showed his weakness, not his strength.

"His ineffectiveness in stopping us has undercut him to some degree," Mr. Berger said in an interview. The challenges are meant to demonstrate his power, he added. "Instead he looks

ineffectual."

A senior administration official said that Mr. Saddam is "nervous and off-balance." Another official, who also spoke on the condition of anonymity, said: "We think we see Mr. Saddam flailing. We are working toward a slow whittling-down of his power, his authority and his nerves. There are reports of military guys perhaps not following orders."

The Clinton administration has not spent a penny of a \$97 million fund created by Congress to finance Iraqi opposition, an indication of its thinking about the likelihood of success.

There is understandably some revulsion in the Arab world about a superpower plotting insurrections in the region. Few in the administration have any idea who or what could succeed Mr. Saddam, except perhaps chaos.

In part because of these sensitivities, the administration has tried to draw as little attention as possible to the air strikes. On Feb. 26, in a major foreign policy speech nearly 7,000 words long, Mr. Clinton devoted one sentence to Iraq and said nothing about the bombing.

The Pentagon, too, is giving out less and less

information about the bombing, withholding the familiar grainy videos of attacks and declining to discuss the damage in detail.

The Pentagon says it is trying to balance risks against rewards.

The delicacy of that balance was clear last week when American jets attacked two radio towers that the Pentagon said relayed messages to Iraqi air defenses but that also, it turned out, controlled the flow of oil through Iraq's pipeline to Turkey.

On Friday, Defense Secretary William Cohen indicated publicly that the strikes on the towers were a mistake. By disrupting the UN program that allows Iraq to sell oil for food and medicine, the United States had handed Iraq a public relations victory, officials said, creating sympathy for ordinary Iraqis.

"It's really one of those traps Saddam's trying to draw us into," an official said.

The biggest trap would be losing an American pilot. The Pentagon has increased the helicopter-borne emergency rescue teams in the region, standing by to dart into Iraq should a plane go down.

A Kosovo Guerrilla Chief Lauds Allies' Peace Plan, But Doesn't Vow to Sign

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TIRANA, Albania — A top Kosovo Liberation Army representative spoke favorably Sunday of a peace deal for the province but was noncommittal about whether the rebels were about to commit to it.

Hashim Thaci, head of the ethnic Albanian delegation at the recent peace talks in France, said only that there had been significant progress toward signing the agreement backed by NATO.

"The project is still being discussed by the Kosovo people, the students and the workers," Mr. Thaci said during a visit to the Albanian capital, Tirana. "The agreement process has entered a progress phase and has taken a very positive direction."

He said that the Kosovo Albanians would insist on NATO troops in Kosovo if the agreement was signed, but that the KLA should retain its status as a defensive force.

The plan calls for the rebels to turn in their weapons and become part of an ethnic Albanian police force.

Mr. Thaci reiterated the Kosovo Albanians' intention to return to France for the renewal of talks on March 15.

KLA leaders failed to meet on Sunday as expected but are now likely to meet early Monday to discuss the Western peace plan, Western sources said.

A Western diplomat, monitoring the talks, said earlier that they were prepared for delays and surprises.

"If the deliberations drag out or there is a negative vote we'll deal with it somehow, but we want to get the Kosovo Albanians signed up for the deal so we can put the pressure squarely on the Serbs."

The "deal" is an 83-page document that ethnic Albanian and Serbian peace delegates reviewed, but failed to accept at 17 days of talks in Rambouillet, France.

Kosovo, which is 90 percent ethnic Albanian, would become an autonomous province of Serbia under the plan. About 28,000 NATO ground forces would enter the province to implement the accord.

The special U.S. peace envoy, Christopher Hill, will travel to Kosovo on Monday to meet guerrilla leaders, keeping up American pressure on the ethnic Albanians to sign a deal that grants them less than the full independence they have been fighting for. (AP, AFP, Reuters)

Albright's Efforts Defended

Jane Perlez of The New York Times

reported earlier from London.

Stung by press criticism in the United States and in Europe of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's handling of the Kosovo peace effort, her closest aide, James Rubin, volunteered a series of statements defending Mrs. Albright to reporters flying with her from Indonesia to London.

Mr. Rubin acknowledged that the administration had "misjudged" how easy it would be to win the approval of the ethnic Albanians at Rambouillet, where the peace talks were suspended without agreement.

He insisted that Mrs. Albright had been right to push ahead despite what he called the "hard work" and too many players.

"The fact that the secretary of state is not able to fully obtain an agreement in a relatively short number of days for the people who've been fighting — violently for many months and politically for many years — shouldn't be considered a mistake by the United States," Mr. Rubin said.

The administration was likely to send an American envoy, probably Richard Holbrooke, to see President Milosevic in the coming week, officials said. The timing and defined purpose of such a trip remain unclear.

In the usual tangled pattern of joint American-European diplomacy toward Mr. Milosevic, the European nations of the Contact Group — Britain, France, Italy and Germany — were unhappy about the prospect of Mr. Holbrooke visiting Mr. Milosevic, diplomats said.

A spokesman for Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch of Austria, one of three negotiators at the Kosovo peace talks, said the Europeans thought that Mr. Holbrooke "could complicate things if he started open negotiations" with Mr. Milosevic at this time on the peace plan.

Mr. Petritsch worked for months with the American envoy, Mr. Hill, to draft the plan.

The Europeans, the spokesman said, would prefer that Mr. Holbrooke concentrate on the Yugoslav leader's violations of the agreement announced last October.

Mr. Holbrooke personally negotiated that agreement, which called for a substantial reduction of Mr. Milosevic's security troops in Kosovo.



Swedish soldiers in the Bosnia peace force monitoring traffic and looking for arms Sunday in the city of Tuzla.

Rebels Blamed for 3 Americans' Deaths

By Douglas Farah
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Marxist guerrillas murdered three kidnapped American humanitarian workers in Colombia on orders from a senior rebel commander, according to Colombian and U.S. officials.

Officials in both countries said the accusation was based not only on witness accounts at the time the three were seized Feb. 25 in Arauca Province near the Venezuelan border but also on electronic intercepts of rebel conversations, including a recording of the order to execute them.

The bodies of Ingrid Washinawotok, Terence Freitas and Lahe'ena' Gay were found Thursday night on the Venezuelan side of the Arauca River, which separates Venezuela and Colombia.

All were shot with 9mm weapons. The two women were shot four times each, in the face and chest, and Mr. Freitas was shot six times, Colombian police said. The three, who had been working with the indigenous U'wa people, had been tied behind their backs.

Officials blamed the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, the largest guerrilla organization in

Colombia, for the murders. The group often kidnaps foreigners to raise funds but seldom executes its captives.

The insurgents customarily deny actions they are not responsible for. They have not yet commented on the murders.

Late last year the rebels, who have been battling the government for 34 years, held their first talks with U.S. officials as part of an effort to repair their international image.

The group's reputation has been hurt by the fact that it receives millions of dollars a year for protecting cocaine and heroin traffickers who operate in different parts of the country.

The December talks with U.S. officials were aimed at trying to persuade the United States that the group could be trusted as it began peace negotiations with the government. Now, those hopes seem shattered and the peace process, already bogged down, appears close to unraveling.

On Friday night, a U.S. State Department spokesman, Lee McClellan, condemned the guerrillas for the murders, which he called a barbaric terrorist act.

State Department officials had come under congressional fire for holding the talks because the guerrilla organization has been formally designated a terrorist

organization by the U.S. government.

Colombian officials also condemned the guerrillas and said the peace process, the centerpiece of President Andres Pastora's seven-month-old government, was close to being canceled. One official called the murders "not only brutal, but really, really dumb."

U.S. and Colombian officials said that speculation about who was responsible for the murders initially centered on rightist paramilitary groups, who more routinely kill hostages, or drug traffickers who operate in the area.

But Colombian intelligence officials, in telephone interviews, said the police had intercepted two cellular phone conversations between the guerrillas of the organization's 45th Front — which was holding the three — and German Briceno, the front commander and brother of Jorge Briceno, the guerrillas' leading military strategist.

The 45th Front has been identified as one of the groups most closely tied to drug trafficking.

In one conversation, the sources said, Mr. Briceno was surprised to learn that two women were being held. He said he had thought they were all men. After asking their ages, Mr. Briceno ordered his troops to "take them over to the other side of the river and burn them," a common phrase for killing.

BRIEFLY

U.S. to Sell Missiles To Saudi Arabia

RIYADH — William Cohen, the U.S. defense secretary, told Saudi Arabia on Sunday that Washington would sell the kingdom advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles to improve Saudi security in the Gulf.

Mr. Cohen agreed at a meeting with Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz, the Saudi defense minister, to increase joint army training exercises in the kingdom and to study jointly the threat from some chemical and biological weapons, a senior U.S. official said.

Israel already has such missiles and Washington has approved their sale to the United Arab Emirates. Bahrain will also get them, Mr. Cohen said. (Reuters)

Haitians Drown After Boats Capsize

MIAMI — Two boats carrying as many as 43 Haitians in an apparent bid to smuggle them into the United States sank off the South Florida coast, and rescuers found only three survivors.

The three men rescued Saturday in the choppy Atlantic waters off West Palm Beach told U.S. Border Patrol officers that one boat — carrying 18 Haitians — broke down and the other boat — carrying 18 to 25 more people — approached it to help. Both boats then went under, the survivors said.

"Forty are presumed dead or drowned," said Art Bullock, a Border Patrol officer in West Palm Beach.

The Coast Guard called off its search for survivors early Sunday. (AP)

UN's Nobel Money To Fund Memorial

UNITED NATIONS, New York — Almost 11 years after winning the Nobel Peace Prize for its peace-keeping efforts in trouble spots around the world, the United Nations has decided to spend the money on a monument commemorating all peacekeepers who lose their lives on duty.

The UN invited Sweden and Norway to help select a design and tentatively plans to erect the memorial on the esplanade outside the visitors' entrance to its New York headquarters, said an assistant secretary-general, Alvaro de Soto. (NYT)

Germany Drops Farm Budget Demand

Agence France-Presse

BONN — Germany is giving up its insistence on "co-financing" in an overhaul of the European Union's agricultural budget, a government spokeswoman said Sunday.

In bowing to French opposition to the plan, which would have required individual governments to pick up part of the tab for farm subsidies, the German decision paved the way for progress in talks on reforms of the Union's Common Agricultural Policy.

Charlotta Reinhardt, the spokeswoman, said that the concept of co-financing "was not politically negotiable" and that instead, "it was decided with our partners to work on other concepts to limit expenses."

Bonn and Paris have been at loggerheads over the agriculture reforms

and, in turn, a broader reform package, Agenda 2000, designed to prepare the EU for expansion into Eastern Europe.

Germany had for weeks infuriated its closest ally by refusing to drop proposals under which part of the Common Agricultural Policy budget would be paid from national rather than European coffers. Bonn had viewed the co-financing plan as a key element in securing a significant reduction in its 11 billion euro (\$12 billion) net contribution to the EU budget.

But even a relatively small degree of co-financing would have added billions to public spending in France, the EU's highest agriculture producer.

Miss Reinhardt denied media reports that there were splits within the German government on the Agenda 2000 negotiating strategy, and in particular on

reform of EU agricultural policy.

"This was not the case," she said.

On Thursday, Agriculture Minister Karl-Heinz Funke told his French counterpart, Jean Glavany, that the issue of co-financing was no longer an option, and Bodo Hombach, Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's chief of staff, said the same day that Germany had "little chance of imposing co-financing."

But on Friday, Miss Reinhardt said national co-financing was still on the agenda. The media and diplomatic circles in Bonn jumped on the apparent discrepancy.

Germany, which holds the rotating presidency of the Union, wants to resolve the agriculture-reform dispute so as to reach an overall agreement on Agenda 2000 in time for an EU summit meeting in Berlin on March 24-25.

Clinton Visit Offers Hope for Central America

By Mireya Navarro
New York Times Service

SAN SALVADOR — When President Bill Clinton visits Central America this week, he will see a region ravaged by one tragedy after another over the past few decades and, more often than not, forgotten in its intervals of renewal.

The president is to open a four-day visit to El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala on Monday, the day after Salvadorans vote on a new president and further cement a remarkable democratic transformation after 12 years of civil war that left more than 70,000 people dead.

Anne Patterson, the U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, said: "It's almost a miracle what's happened here."

But after the clamor of the 1980s, when the region's upheavals dominated U.S. foreign policy, that change has

occurred almost silently. It has taken last year's devastating Hurricane Mitch to refocus attention here.

With this visit, many Central American experts agree, Mr. Clinton has a chance to engage the region once again — with increased aid, trade preferences and protected status for Central American immigrants, for example — and to nurture democracies that emerged only recently from armed conflicts and are still fragile.

Skating Injury Keeps Hillary Clinton at Home

Hillary Rodham Clinton will not accompany the president to Central America this week because she has aggravated a back injury she suffered skiing, Reuters reported Sunday from Washington. Marsha Berry, Mrs. Clinton's spokeswoman, said: "She had a little bit of a mishap skiing last weekend and I think trying to do too much this week didn't help it."

Law Is Voided On Rape Suits

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — A federal law that gave victims of rape and domestic violence the right to sue their attackers for violating their civil rights is unconstitutional, a U.S. appeals court in Richmond, Virginia, has ruled.

The court's 7-to-4 decision invalidates a key section of the Violence Against Women Act, a broad-based congressional response to domestic violence that also includes financing for battered women's programs and interstate enforcement of protective orders.

The ruling means that in states under the court's jurisdiction — Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia and the Carolinas — victims of rape and domestic violence will only be allowed to sue under state tort laws. The court found that the Constitution does not give Congress the power to legislate in this area because the problem is not related to interstate commerce.

Legal analysts said the case was likely to reach the U.S. Supreme Court, where it could become a vehicle for further limiting Congress's ability to pass legislation in areas where states also have authority.

Women's groups criticized the decision Friday by the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in the case of Christy Brzonkala, a former Virginia Tech student who filed a federal lawsuit against two football players who she said had raped her.

ITALY: If Pilot Wasn't at Fault, Who Was?

Continued from Page 1

the crew's squadron commander, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Muegge. One other officer received a letter of reprimand, effectively ending his career.

Captain Ashby still faces a court-martial for obstruction of justice, a charge that stems from the removal of a videotape, which could be valuable evidence, from the plane after landing.

An exhausted Captain Ashby was circumspect in his criticism of the Marine Corps during an interview. "I'll always say that I love the Marine Corps for what it is, and what it stands for," he said.

But the captain admitted to feeling like a scapegoat, and he and his attorneys said problems in preparations for the flight — including a flawed map and incorrect information about altitude and speed restrictions — sent his EA-6B Prowler flying up the valley, in Captain Ashby's words, at the "wrong place and the wrong time."

One simple step that could have prevented the accident, he added, would have been "making sure everybody knows the rules for flying in a foreign country."

Members of Captain Ashby's Prowler squadron, although they had been in Italy for nearly six months at the time of the February 1998 accident, said they were unaware of Italian regulations that prohibited jets from flying below 2,000 feet in the region, an altitude that would have kept Captain Ashby's jet far above the ski-lift cable, which was hit at a height of about 360 feet (about 110 meters).

The court proceedings here and an earlier investigation into the accident revealed a host of such failures, both by the Marine Corps and by other branches of the armed services.

Other problems included the widely publicized failure to include the cableway on the map provided to the crew, poor communication between the U.S. Air Force and the Marine Corps, including a failure to relay critical information that could have prevented the accident, and flawed safety equipment aboard the aircraft.

The disaster demonstrated that, despite the Pentagon's emphasis in recent years on improving joint operations between military services, serious problems still exist.

"This is a classic example," said Captain Ashby's attorney, Frank Spinner, a former air force officer. "The services have different mind-sets and different operating procedures."

Ironically, faulty communication between the army and the air force also played a key role in the accidental shooting down in 1994 of two U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopters by air force F-15s over northern Iraq.

Among the problems that emerged from the gondola investigation and subsequent trial:

• The Marine Corps squadron was largely unaware of low-level flight restrictions, even though the air force gave the information to the squadron.

• The radar altimeter on the Prowler involved in the accident often failed. Records show that in five months before the accident, the radar altimeter, which warns if the jet flies too low, had been checked for malfunctions 12 times.

• The training given Captain Ashby and other Marine aviators was not good enough for flying low-level routes in mountainous regions, according to tests.

Despite outrage in Italy and elsewhere in the world, the accident was popular among Marines at this base.

Travel

QUARTERLY



A Buddhist monk looking out of a temple in Luang Prabang. Monks collect alms in the street every day at dawn.

Ancient City, New Vistas

Former Capital of Laos Begins to Draw Tourists

By Thomas Crampton

LUANG PRABANG, Laos — Nestled among hazy hills at a slow bend in the Mekong River, the former royal capital of Laos, Luang Prabang, has long been a remote preserve of old Indochina.

Potholes and highway bandits discouraged road travel to the city, while access by air required a stopover in the Laotian capital, Vientiane, not to mention the lengthy and expensive visa procedures just to get into the country.

In the last year, however, this riverside city of royal palaces, golden temples and colonial-era buildings that somehow managed to survive the ravages of war and communism has been firmly placed on the tourist map, while nonetheless retaining the charm and relaxing demeanor that makes it one of the most rewarding cultural destinations in Southeast Asia.

Lao Aviation has begun in the last several months to fly direct from northern Thailand twice a week, the airport offers \$30 visas on arrival and the city's infrastructure for visitors has been geared up for a two-year tourism promotional effort. In the last few months, tour boats have even begun plying the Mekong River from Thailand, an ideal way to enter Laos and approach the city.

As a result, the city's colonial-style luxury hotels were booked solid through the cool season, (December to February) and the number of budget guest houses has tripled to about 50 in the last year. Sidewalk tables at the French restaurants are packed, and vibrant Laotian textiles are sold from the once-empty shops that line the main street.

Declared a World Heritage site by the United Nations in

1995, just as the country's isolationist Communist government started to crack open the door to tourists and market economics, Luang Prabang presented conservationists with the almost unique opportunity to rescue an Asian city built of wood from the tidal wave of poured concrete that has enveloped much of the region's architecture.

A brisk walk up the steep hill to the central temple, the Phousi, reveals the city's palm-fringed vista of more than a thousand low wooden buildings concentrated on a 250-meter wide peninsula that runs for less than a kilometer.

The best way to visit the city is to start near the tip of the peninsula at the magnificent gold-festooned Xieng Tong temple and meander on foot or rented bicycle through the city's many narrow streets.

BRUSHING aside banana leaves and peering over fences made of woven bamboo reveals houses and a lifestyle that seem little touched by the late 20th century. This apparently unchanged way of life is as great an appeal as the city's architecture.

Virtually every temple seems to have sheds for lengthy ceremonial teak racing boats and storerooms filled with masks and other elaborately decorated items used to celebrate festivals.

But even outside of the major annual festivals, it is easy to partake in the rituals of Luang Prabang. Each day at dawn, to the sound of the city's many roosters, thousands of barefoot Buddhist monks can be seen shuffling silently through the streets collecting alms.

Circulating in single file, broken into groups of about 20,

See LAOS, Page 9

Are Airline Alliances Passenger-Unfriendly?

By Roger Collis

IMAGINE arriving at the airport to find that instead of the familiar airline check-in desks, there is just one long row of desks displaying the logo Star Alliance. At other airports, you might have a choice of Oneworld or Atlantic Excellence. But this is Hamburg, a Star Alliance hub.

Your ticket reads: Hamburg-Copenhagen-New York-Toronto-Frankfurt-Hamburg. You have no idea on which airline you will be flying in these sectors — perhaps Lufthansa, SAS, United, or Air Canada. You can expect the same standards of service and comfort, similar seating, food and in-flight entertainment. You will earn

double miles because the entire journey is with Star Alliance partners, and diamond membership of the Star Alliance frequent-flyer program will give you the run of VIP lounges along the way. But don't expect any price breaks because there is no competition on the route you are traveling.

This scenario may be only slightly futuristic as airlines carve up the skies into four major alliances, accounting for more than 60 percent of world airline traffic: Star Alliance; Oneworld; Atlantic Excellence; and KLM-Northwest-Continental Airlines.

Some insiders predict that, in 5 to 10 years time, we may end up with half a dozen global airlines, formed from current alliances. In addition, there may be around 400 satellite or regional carriers, along with independent niche

players offering competition on certain regional and international routes.

The rationale for the new global airline networks is to prevent airlines losing passengers — and profit — as people change carriers to reach their final destination.

Global airline cooperation typically involves "code-sharing," a system whereby airlines agree to use the same "designator code," or flight number, for a flight or series of connecting flights in order to attract more business by extending their networks through partner carriers.

Airlines sometimes sell blocks of seats under their own code in another airline's cabin. Such is the case with Continental Airlines which sells its own tickets on Virgin Atlantic flights from Heathrow to Miami, and with Sabena which sells seats

on Virgin Express flights between Brussels and Heathrow. You never know whether the airline you booked on is the one you will actually fly.

The Star Alliance is the most formally structured global network, with a management board, integrated check-ins and sales forces, coordinated scheduling and frequent-flyer programs. It consists of Air Canada, Lufthansa, SAS, Thai Airlines, United Airlines, Varig, Air New Zealand and Ansett. All Nippon Airlines is due to join in October. It claims to serve about 800 destinations around the world.

Oneworld is a looser alliance that was formed in February. It is led by American Airlines and British Airways along with Canadian Airlines,

See ALLIANCES, Page 8

INSIDE

The Savvy Traveler gives tips on saving up to 80 percent on full-fare air tickets. Page 8.
The Healthy Traveler looks at why air passengers find cabin air so stuffy. Page 8.



Cycling networks that span continents are being set up for 'cyclotourists.' Page 10.

DISCOVER THE MANY HIDDEN FACES OF INDOCHINA

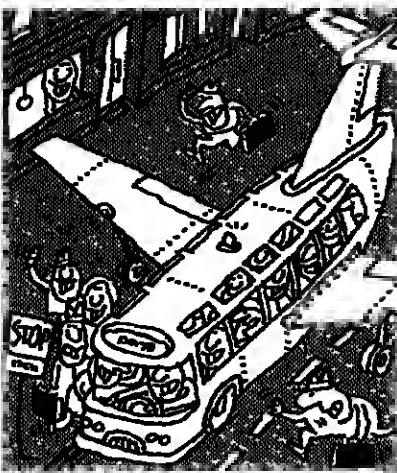
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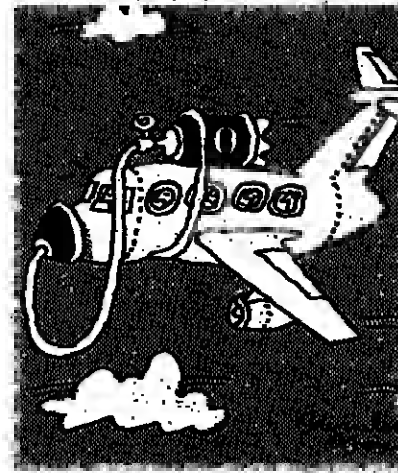
No-Frills Options Grow

Debonair, which started services from Luton about the same time as EasyJet, is more low-frills than no-frills with a fleet of 14 planes. It has its own small terminal at Luton and offers in-flight coffee, soft drinks and snacks and more leg room than most national carriers. From Luton, you can fly to Paris, Barcelona, Nice, Madrid, Dusseldorf, Munich, and between Munich and Barcelona.



Cabin Air Hasn't Cleared

The issue of airborne viruses in airplanes has been studied by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in connection with probes of six people known to have taken commercial airline flights between 1993 and 1995 while carrying infections: tuberculosis, TB can be transmitted through tiny droplets produced when an infectious person coughs. The CDC's investigation found no evidence that a handful of other passengers who later tested positive for TB got the virus through the plane's filtered ventilation system. Instead, transmission was related to how close passengers were sitting to the infected individual and the length of the flight.



ROBIN HERMAN is a journalist based in Paris.

Are Alliances User-Unfriendly?

"We're seeing monopoly markets like Sabena and Delta between Brussels and the States where you can no longer negotiate with individual carriers, you have to deal with the Atlantic Excellence alliance. The same goes for Lufthansa, United and SAS in the Star Alliance. You call the SAS rep; they automatically refer you back to a Lufthansa rep. I mean, you see the Lufthansa guy walking around in the United Airlines office. It gets scary. KLM walks in the door and they know what our deals are with Alitalia."

ROGER COLLIS writes *The Frequent Traveler* column for the *International Herald Tribune*.



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Travel

Potpourri Of Charm And Rich Heritage



An old hill tribe woman visiting Luang Prabang.

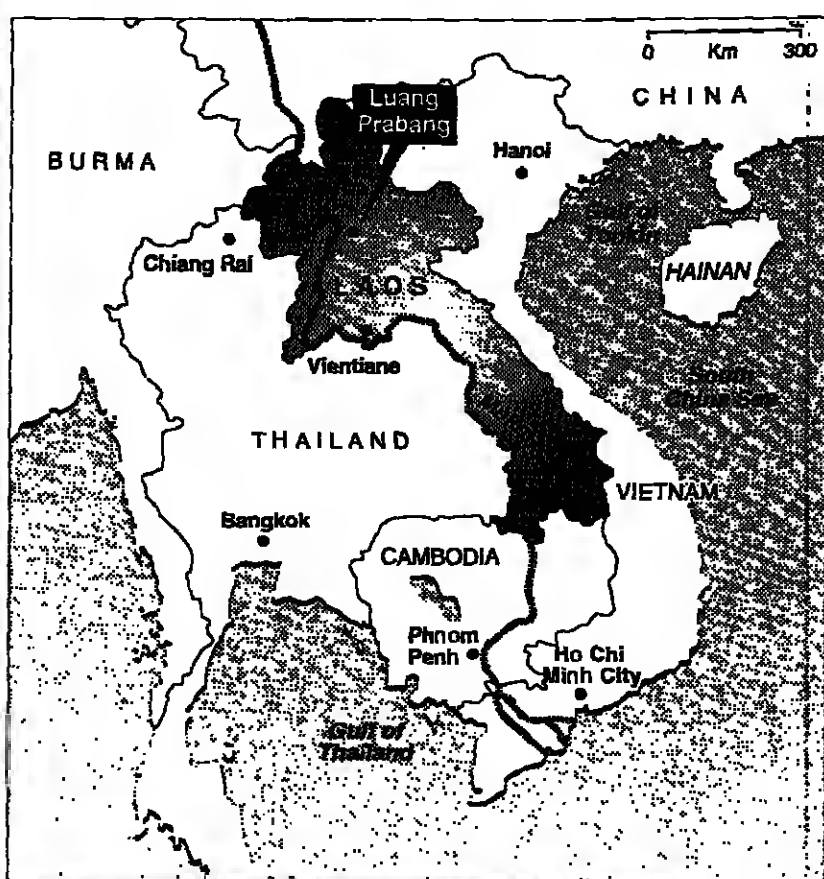
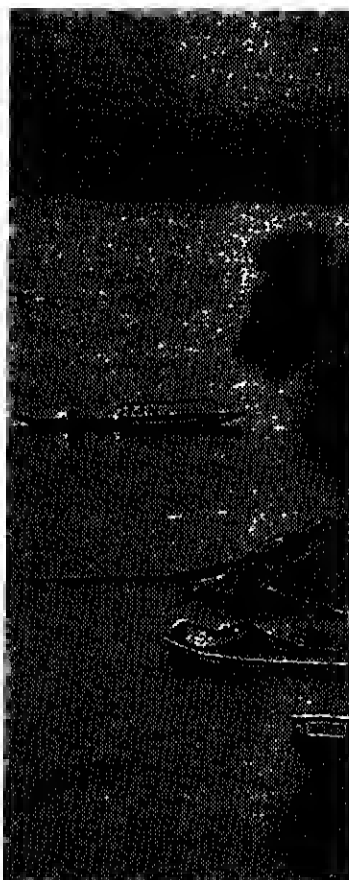


Mothers meeting near the central market in Luang Prabang.



Workers pushing a cement mixer past one of the city's traditional wooden houses.

The sun setting on the Mekong River; tour boats now come from Thailand to enter Laos and cruise up to Luang Prabang.



When to go:

Luang Prabang is best visited at the height of the dry season or during one of the country's traditional holidays, such as the September boat races or the Lao New Year in mid-April. The month of March should be avoided since slash-and-burn agriculture in the area brings down a heavy pall of smoke on the city.

Getting there:

The journey to Luang Prabang requires transport that may make some travelers think twice before booking a holiday. Lao Aviation operates an aging fleet of Chinese propeller aircraft considered too dangerous for travel by staff at the United Nations and many embassies. The Lao capital, Vientiane, can also be reached on Thai Airways International's daily flights from Bangkok or by land from Thailand. Getting to Luang Prabang by car, however, requires driving on a road once known for occasional robberies. Perhaps the ideal way to arrive in Luang Prabang is to fly to Chiang Rai, northern Thailand, and ride a boat for two days downstream on the Mekong River.

Where to stay:

The best places both to spend the evening and stay in Luang Prabang are the handful of colonial-style hotels. Many of them have terraces or verandas and all cost around \$50 a night for a room. Near the tip of the peninsula is the Auberge Calao (tel. 856-71-212-100), the restored 19th-century headquarters of a Chinese-Portuguese trading company, and the Villa Santi (tel. 856-71-212-267), the former residence of a princess that has been fixed up by her descendants. The Hotel Souvannaphoum (tel. 856-71-212-200), named for the prince who owned it as a palace, is a little further into town. The more modern Phou Vao Hotel (tel. 856-71-212-194), with landscaped gardens and a swimming pool, is just outside town.

Guidebooks:

The better ones are those published by Lonely Planet and Footprint Handbooks. The London-based Rough Guides will also soon publish a guide to Laos with a large section dedicated to Luang Prabang.

Ancient City and New Vistas

Continued from Page 7

the saffron-clad monks receive donations of steaming sticky rice and sweet cakes wrapped in banana leaves from residents who kneel on mats outside their homes. They are joined by the occasional tourist.

But the hurried traveler who tries to see and do all of Luang Prabang will miss out on the city's calm silence, smell of grass and human pace of life.

"I have been here for four days and have not yet even managed to send a single postcard," said one tourist while relaxing at a sidewalk café along the main street.

WITH financial support and encouragement from the country's former colonial ruler, France, the Lao government has mapped, photographed, classified and enacted strict regulations to protect the thousand or so wooden buildings in the central part of the city.

Funds from France to preserve the city multiplied this year to several million dollars from a few hundred thousand, and Boutros Boutros Ghali, the former United Nations secretary-general who now heads the French cultural promotion organization Franco-phonie, has said he will help lead appeals to find further international support for the conservation project.

Already every alteration or new construction must be built in harmony with the city's traditional style architecture, emphasizing such local characteristics as the sweeping Lao-Lao tiled roofs and wooden walls.

Enthusiastic support of the project by the governor and the Lao-Lao central government, a one-party regime accused by Amnesty International of detaining political prisoners, has occasionally brought what some residents

consider heavy-handed enforcement of these cultural regulations. Authorities very strongly encourage all Lao-Lao women in Luang Prabang to wear traditional woven skirts and Lao-Lao men to keep their hair short.

In an act called excessive by conservationists, the governor ordered the demolition of dozens of wooden restaurants traditionally built on the sand banks of the Mekong during the dry season.

"There is a certain irony that the same Lao government responsible for the last king's death in a cave 20 years ago is now enthusiastically promoting tourism to Luang Prabang," said one foreign tour operator. "The king was a quasi-religious figure so it is equivalent to killing the Pope and then promoting tours of the Vatican City."

The 600-year-old ruling dynasty of Laos ended when the Communists came to power in 1975. King Savang Vatthana was forced to abdicate and was banished from Luang Prabang's royal palace. The deposed monarch briefly moved to a nearby house along the Mekong before being taken to a cave in the country's northeast, a trip from which he never returned.

The preservation of Luang Prabang does, however, receive a great deal of popular support among residents, many of whom point to Thailand, their nearby cultural cousin, as the destructive development model they wish to avoid.

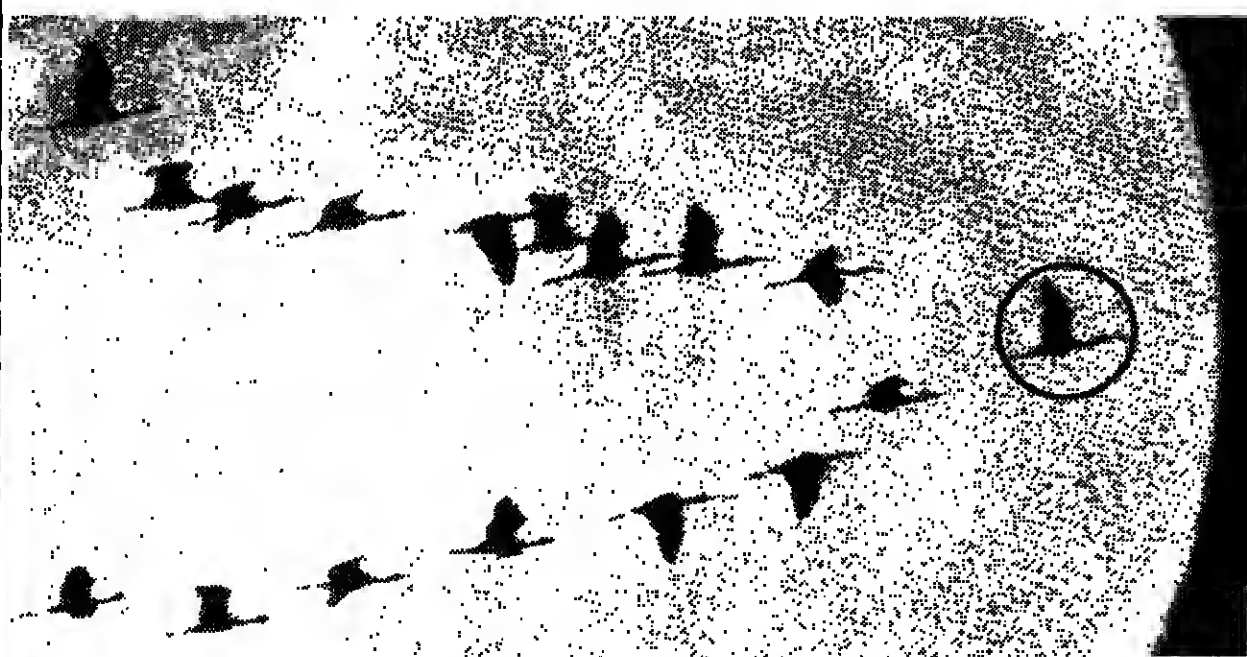
"My neighbors are not all happy that we must stay in old-style houses where termites eat the wood," said Manivanh Thounmabouth, a schoolteacher who supports the city's conservation efforts. "But there are many people like me who want to restore our houses as soon as money becomes available."

THOMAS CRAMPTON is a correspondent for the International Herald Tribune in Bangkok.

Travel

Next report on June 8, 1999

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Pushing Pedals From Sea to Sea

Bicycle Routes Span Continents

By Rick Smith

IF YOU have ever dreamed of jumping on a bicycle and heading for the horizon, you might be advised to look for a signpost near you. It could well be that someone with the same idea has tried it out and already mapped a route, perhaps for thousands of miles.

As the millennium approaches, an assortment of politicians, environmentalists, athletes and tourism promoters have joined together to launch ambitious national and international networks of cycle routes. The United States, Britain and a group funded by the European Community are all launching major initiatives for the year 2000.

These routes, some planned and others already in existence, cross major mountain ranges, follow old military or migration routes and span continents. Some of the better traveled circuits are becoming dotted with hotels and stores that are catering to the special needs of cyclists.

"There is a trend toward more active vacations and people want a sense of accomplishment," said Kevin Condit, a director of Adventure Cycling, a nonprofit foundation based in Missoula, Montana.

That organization estimates that each year about 1,000 cyclists are now using its three mapped routes crossing the United States from ocean to ocean. It also has mapped routes playing both coasts and is coordinating a mountain hiking route that roughly tracks the Continental Divide from Canada to Mexico.

And on the drawing boards is EuroVelo, a venture with funding from the European Union that envisions 12 routes crossing Europe from various angles, including one from Moscow to Galway, Ireland, and another from Norway's North Cape to the tip of Sicily.

Neither of these organizations is in the business of building pathways. Instead they send out teams to reconnoiter the best existing roadways and paths, set up contact with local authorities and publish extensive maps designed for long-distance cyclists.

This is also the approach that has been followed in Germany, where the Allgemeiner Deutscher Fahrrad-Club, the national cyclist federation, will introduce this spring a 60-page guide showing 30 of the most attractive cycling routes in both the eastern and western parts of the country.

The British organization Sustrans (for "Sustainable Transport") goes one step further. It also initiates construction of new pathways to fill out its National Cycle Network, which it hopes will encompass 3,500 miles (5,600 kilometers) by 2000 and 8,000 miles by 2005. About 2,000 miles are already in place, with roughly half of that on pathways dedicated to non-motorized traffic.

"We want to make it possible for people who have lost the idea of transport by bicycle to try it again if there is an easy and safe way to do it," said Philip Insall, one of the directors of Sustrans.

"We don't build for cyclists, but for people who cycle," said Richard Tibenham, a spokesman for the organization.

Switzerland recently provided a closely followed prototype for other national networks. Several years ago, a half dozen dedicated cyclists, half of whom pride themselves on not knowing how to drive a car, formed a small company called Velobuero in the small town of Olten and decided to lobby for a

national network.

"The situation was chaotic before," said Rolf Bruckert, one of the founders. "Some cantons had a system and others did not. You would be going along and suddenly things would change. It was very confusing."

Soon Velobuero had sparked interest in the federal and local governments, tourist boards, athletic clubs and the national railroad. Together they mustered a budget of over 15 million francs (\$10.4 million), and nine months ago the government dedicated a network of 3,300 kilometers and nine routes crisscrossing the country.

"Now there are 10,000 standardized signs and 250 panels of maps and information scattered across Switzerland that cyclists can easily follow," he said.

"Velobuero has functioned as a sort of hot house for ideas, the kind of organization where people get together and develop a vision," said Mr. Insall of Britain's Sustrans.

The Swiss effort typifies the grassroots nature of many national initiatives. U.S. federal programs for development of cycling facilities, notably the large packages passed in 1991 and 1997, are typically financed on a matched funding basis where Washington matches local contributions.

The EuroVelo project, launched in 1997, has received a modest 100,000 euros (\$110,000) in seed money from the European Community, but the funds are matching contributions

from a wide variety of local contributors, including the cities of Glasgow, Barcelona, Copenhagen and Malmö; the Estonian Road Administration; the Croatian, Danish, Dutch and Czech tourist boards; the Italian provinces of Turin and Reggio nell'Emilia; and the Spanish regions of Valencia, Andalusia and Navarra.

"About 60 organizations in 22 countries have contributed," said Victoria Gil, the EuroVelo coordinator in Brussels, who noted that the organization is hoping to build a wide base of support to gain further funding.

"We have had more contact with local and regional governments than with national ones," she said.

EUROVELO is aiming to have one of its 12 projected cross-European routes mapped out by 2000. It is also in the process of deciding if it wants a uniform system of signs or instead wants to concentrate its resources on incorporating instructions in its maps.

As tourism grows in importance for many regions and especially for struggling backwaters, the rewards of so-called cyclotourism can be impressive.

A new study being prepared by EuroVelo notes that hotels in some Austrian towns along the Danube, a path that follows the Danube from Passau, Germany, to Vienna, are booking as much as 80 percent

of overnight stays from cyclists.

"All of the towns along this route have benefited from the cyclists," said Walter Grassl, a spokesman for Oesterreich Werbung, an organization promoting tourism in Austria. He noted that the route of approximately 350 kilometers largely follows a path used in the past by teams of horses to pull rafts on the river.

There is now a category of 40 "Bike Hotels" in Austria that must provide repair tools, bicycle storage, "low-fat meals" and weather information. Other services range from guided tours to massages. In Switzerland, more than 100 hotels have been classified as *velotels*, or cyclist hotels, and provide similar services in eight price categories.

"We think we had 120,000 overnight stays by cyclists in Swiss hotels last summer," said Joerg Krebs, a spokesman for Schweiz Tourismus, the Swiss tourist organization, in Zurich. "But that was the first year of the new network and we are aiming to lift that to 250,000 to 500,000."

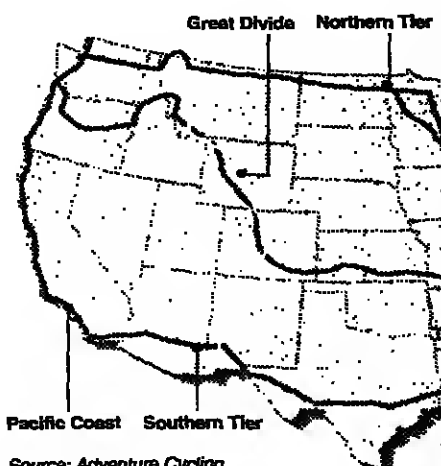
The prospect of armies of relatively quiet and peaceful, nonpolluting tourists has produced more than a few turnaround stories for depressed communities.

When the small town of Moab, Utah, was devastated by the closing of its uranium mines in the 1980s, a few miners who were hobby cyclists knew how intriguing the local terrain was for cyclists and opened a bike shop.

"It was a matter of survival," said Marian DeLay, director of the Grand County Travel Council.

The town has since been dubbed a world capital of mountain biking and the town of 6,500 now has 49 restaurants, 1,600 hotels rooms and 13 operators who rent bicycles and do tours. Although the town is also attractive to general tourists as a gateway to scenic canyon areas, it estimates that several hundred thousand of its visitors come each year just to cycle.

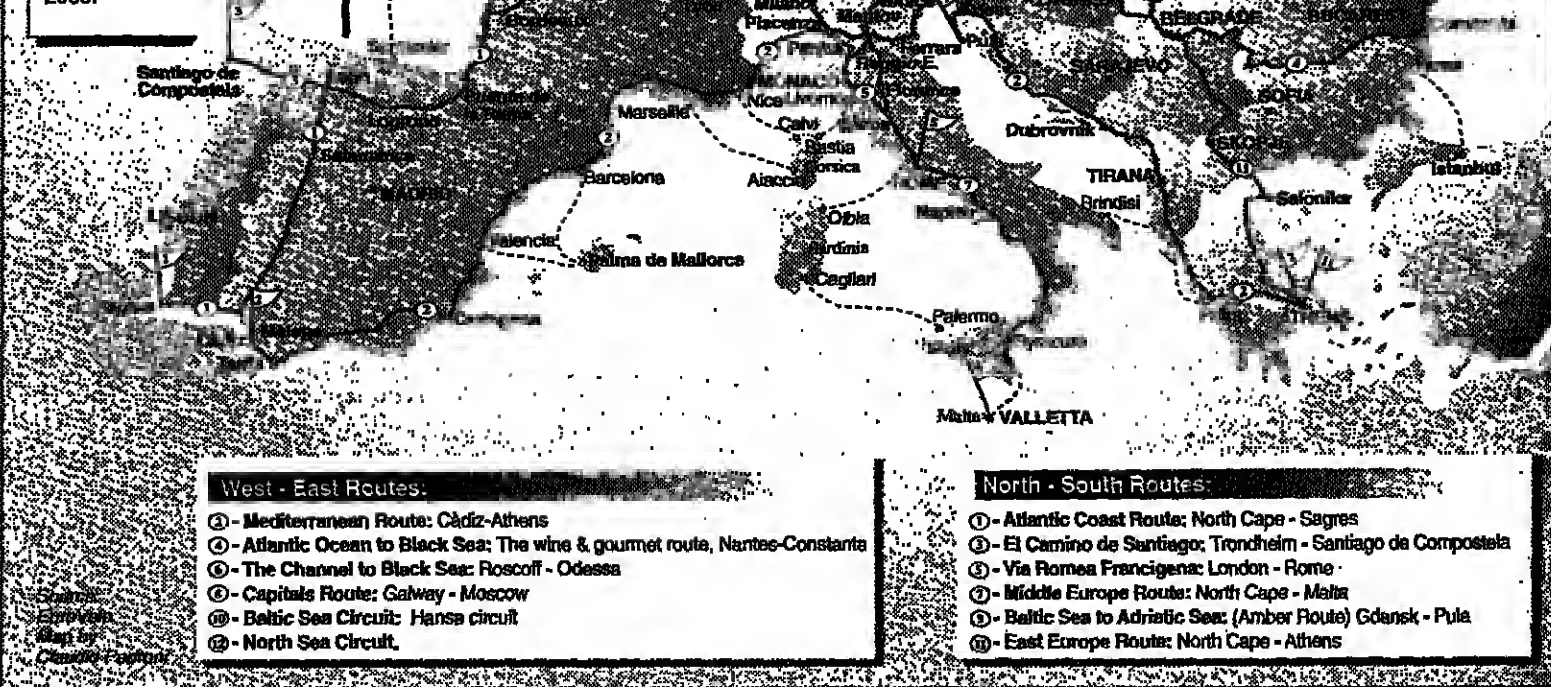
RICK SMITH is on the staff of the International Herald Tribune.



Source: Adventure Cycling

Adventure Cycling, a nonprofit body that has been scouting and mapping out long-distance routes in the United States for several decades, has set out three recommended ways to cross the continent.

All routes shown here are provisional choices, although some include stretches that are already well-used cycling routes. Coordinators are working with governments and other interested organizations to map out the routes, which will mostly be on roadways shared with other vehicles. Coordinators hope to officially dedicate a first full route by 2000.

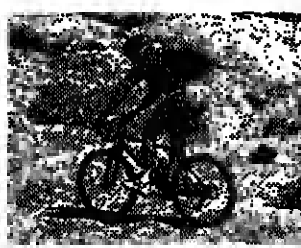


West-East Routes:

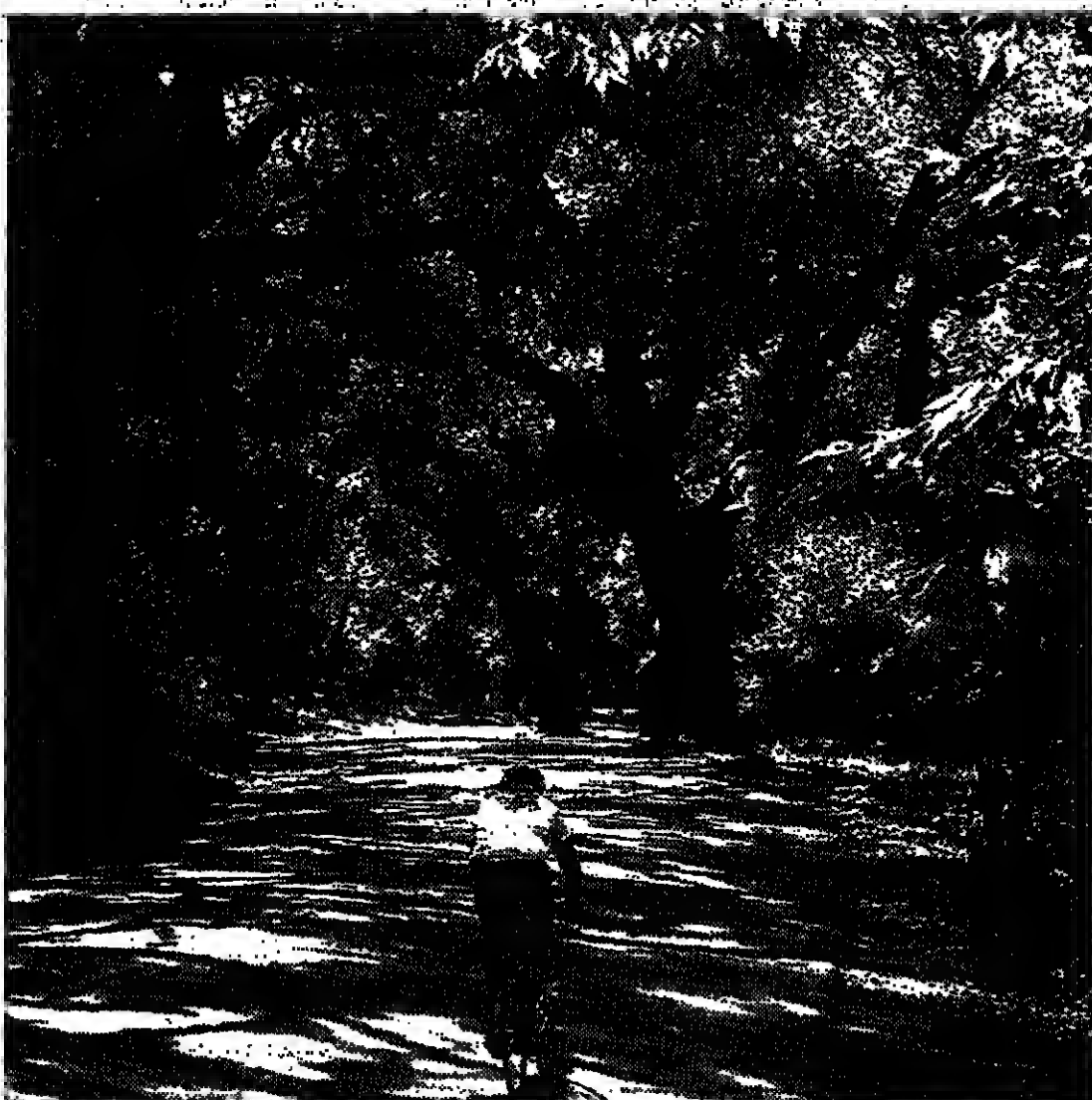
- ① - Mediterranean Route: Cadiz-Athens
- ② - Atlantic Ocean to Black Sea: The wine & gourmet route, Nantes-Constantinople
- ③ - The Channel to Black Sea: Roscoff-Odesa
- ④ - Capitals Route: Galway-Moscow
- ⑤ - Baltic Sea Circuit: Hanse circuit
- ⑥ - North Sea Circuit

North-South Routes:

- ① - Atlantic Coast Route: North Cape-Sagres
- ② - El Camino de Santiago: Trondheim-Santiago de Compostela
- ③ - Via Romea Francigena: London-Rome
- ④ - Middle Europe Route: North Cape-Malta
- ⑤ - Baltic Sea to Adriatic Sea: (Amber Route) Gdansk-Pula
- ⑥ - East Europe Route: North Cape-Athens



Hotels and stores are catering to the needs of cyclists.



A cyclist in Fallbrook, California. Many regions are discovering the value of "cyclotourism."

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HEALTH/SCIENCE

Guiding the Elderly To Good Nutrition

By Jane E. Brody
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Many ailments that afflict elderly people are caused or indirectly worsened by poor nutrition — an inadequate intake of essential nutrients, dietary fiber and water. Health problems like heart disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, kidney disease and even cancer are influenced by the foods consumed, or not consumed, especially in older people.

Poor choice of foods, rather than a shortage of finances, is the usual reason. Studies indicate that nutritional shortcomings are common among the elderly who are well-to-do as well as those with limited resources.

Studies have shown that just as a child's nutritional requirements differ in quantity and quality from an adult's, the nutritional needs of the elderly differ from those of younger adults.

The Food Guide Pyramid to good eating habits devised in 1992 by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services depicts the number of recommended servings of each food group to be consumed per day by an adult who wants to remain healthy. The pyramid calls for a daily intake of six to 11 servings of grain-based foods, three to five servings of vegetables, two to four servings of fruits, two to three servings of a high-protein food (meat, poultry, fish, dried beans, eggs and nuts) and two to three servings of dairy foods. Fats, oils and sweets — at the tip of the pyramid — should be eaten sparingly.

But large numbers of elderly Americans fall seriously short of these recommendations, consuming the least nutritious choices in each food category. Like white bread instead of whole grain and fruit juice instead of whole fruit. In addition, as energy needs decline with age, the elderly tend to eat fewer calories, and hence fewer servings, of the recommended food groups.

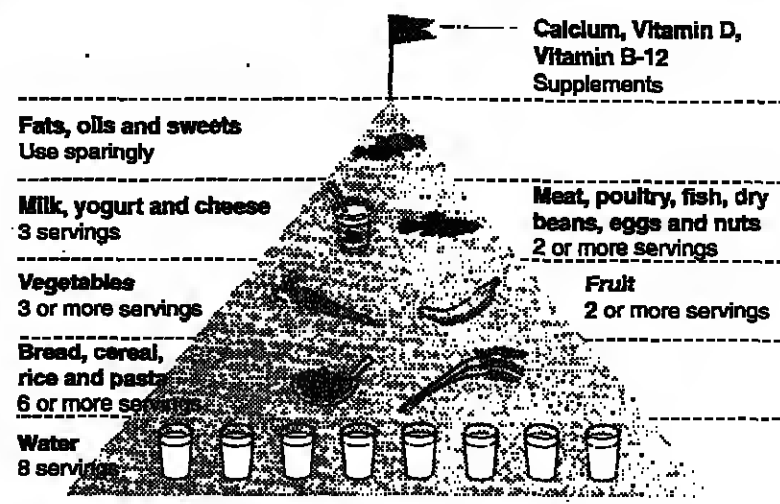
With these problems in mind, Dr. Robert Russell, a professor of medicine and nutrition at Tufts University in Boston and his colleagues at the Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts, Dr. Alice Lichtenstein and Helen Rasmussen, a registered dietitian, have developed a revised food guide pyramid for people over 70.

This guide has a new foundation: water, eight 8-ounce (240-milliliter) glasses of it (or its nonalcoholic, caffeine-free equivalent) each day. Dr. Russell said that "older people have a reduced thirst mechanism — they have to consciously think of drinking more and keeping well hydrated." He explained that without enough water, blood pressure can fall dangerously low, clotting may form and block blood vessels, kidney function may be compromised and constipation can become chronic.

The next level — six or more servings a day of grain-based foods like bread, cereal, rice and pasta — must emphasize fiber-rich choices, the Tufts researchers say. Then come the fruits and vegetables, both of which are best consumed as fiber-rich whole foods, not juice. Furthermore, they say, the recommended

Eating Right From Bottom to Top

Scientists have developed a new food pyramid specifically for people over 70, whose nutritional needs are often lacking.



Source: Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University

three or more servings of vegetables and two or more servings of fruits should feature foods that are richly colored — dark green, orange, red or yellow. These are richest in essential nutrients.

In the dairy group, the three recommended servings a day should feature low-fat choices. Within the meat group, the two or more daily servings should emphasize variety and feature fish and dried beans as well as lean cuts of meat and poultry, the new pyramid suggests.

Overall, the consumption of high-fat and highly sweetened foods should be limited since they provide nutritionally empty calories and leave less room in the quotient for nutrient-rich foods.

As for the types of fats used in cooking, in dressings and as table spreads, the Tufts scientists recommend liquid oils and, if margarine is used it should be free of so-called trans fatty acids, which behave like artery-clogging saturated fat.

The Tufts researchers, who are publishing their suggested food guide in the March issue of *The Journal of Nutrition*, have added something new to the pyramid: a supplement "flag" at the peak. Dr. Russell explained that few older people were able to get enough calcium, Vitamin B-12 and Vitamin D from their diets, and many would have to take supplements to fulfill nutritional needs.

Fear: Response To a Hostile World

By Natalie Angier
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Not long ago, I had an episode of a recurring nightmare: a going-back-to-the-Bronx dream. In reality, my childhood apartment building on Creston Avenue has long since burned to the ground.

In my dreams, though, I must get back to it, no matter how dangerous the journey. I must walk along dark streets where batterers and murderers loiter in every doorway. I must travel on subways that invariably run the wrong direction.

When I finally arrive, the apartment is deserted, with no lock, no lights, no furniture, no family to protect me. I'm all alone in the Bronx, and I'm terrified right out of my mind. At which point, I bolt awake — and the real nightmare begins.

In my waking life, my mind sets out for my inspection that fleshiest source of anxiety: work. I worry about assignments still to be reported, parts of my latest book that I hate, the many stories that I have started but never finished. From what I have been able to gather through discussions with some psychologists, I am fearful by nature. It is not a disease, they tell me, it is a temperamental flavor. My fearfulness can even be parsed. According to the reigning model of personality development, one's character is constructed of about six core components, which are mixed, matched, chopped and purged into the primordial soup we call the self.

Each dimension is thought to be partly inherited, and partly formed, or deformed, by experience. The ancients knew these personality modules as the "dispositional humors," giving them zesty names like "phlegm" and "choler." Scientists now speak of human nature as a compendium of the traits "harm avoidance," "novelty-seeking," "self-directedness," "cooperativeness," "persistence" and "extraversion."

Noting that "tendency to wring one's hands" was not among the dirty half-dozen, I called Dr. C. Robert Cloninger of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and asked him, "What's the recipe for a crybaby?"

"There are two aspects of personality related to fearfulness," he said. "One is being high in the dimension of harm avoidance. This means that you're very sensitive to all sorts of potentially uncomfortable stimuli. You anticipate threats and pains, and you try to avoid them."

"The other part of fearfulness is being low in self-directedness," he said.

"That means you don't have much self-confidence, and you tend to think of the world as a hostile place."

Was he implying that I was hostile? "The two often go together, as you might expect," he said. "If you're sensitive to threats, it's hard to have a hopeful view of life. That negativity can end up eroding your self-esteem. On the other hand, if you are naturally high in harm avoidance, and you're raised in a supportive environment where you learn what the safe limits are, you can gain confidence and self-directedness, and avoid becoming excessively fearful."

"That's fine if you're a kid. But what can you do if you're a fearful adult?" I said.

"It's not impossible to change," Dr. Cloninger answered. "but it is difficult. One thing we've learned is that temperament tends to remain stable over the course of a lifetime."

I decided to explore the positive side of negativity. I called Dr. Myron Hofer of the New York State Psychiatric Institute in New York, who has studied the evolution of fear and anxiety, and asked him, "What good is fear?"

"Fear, of course, was absolutely necessary to survival in our evolutionary past," he said. "Anxiety is probably the first emotion that an infant experiences, at the moment of birth and separation from the mother. In nearly all birds and mammals, an infant that is separated from the nest will show signs of intense anxiety, particularly by vocalizing. The only species we've seen where this doesn't happen is the rabbit. For some reason, baby rabbits don't cry."

"Certain aspects of the fear response make physical sense," Dr. Hofer continued. "For example, consider the fact that your arm hairs stand on end when you're scared. That could be a holdover from a young mammal's response to separation, an attempt to stay warm in the absence of its mother by fluffing up its fur."

OR take the shallow breathing and tendency toward paralysis that can accompany intense fear, he said. What better way to fool a lurking predator than to act invisible, or dead?

"A little bit of anxiety is still a good thing to have," Dr. Hofer added. "Performance artists say they need a surge of anxiety to put on a great show. But perpetual anxiety and fearfulness are another matter. They don't make sense. Many of the threats that our forebears confronted no longer exist."

The Solar System: Oddball of the Universe?

By John Noble Wilford
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The discovery of planets around other stars has made Epicureans of astronomers. Not that they now put out the fine silver, pop the cork and dress for dinner by candlelight every long night under the observatory dome; they are still unwrapping their fired sandwiches and tearing open the corn chips. But nowadays their tastes run to the cosmic musings of the eponymous founder of Epicurean philosophy.

Epicurus, a Greek philosopher in the fourth century B.C., did not explicitly predict the existence of planets around stars other than the sun, but he believed in an infinity of worlds, meaning other ordered systems beyond the visible universe as it was then conceived.

This contrasted to the Earth-centered cosmos of his contemporary, Aristotle, whose cosmology prevailed in Western thought for more than two millennia.

Only in the last three years have astronomers established the reality of latter-day Epicurean speculations about a plurality of worlds, which in recent centuries came to mean planets beyond the solar system, some possibly inhabited. But while astronomers tip their hats to Epicurus, they just wish he had advised them how to make sense of the distant planets being detected by their telescopes.

Finding something is not the same as discovering what is found. The more astronomers study the growing evidence of extrasolar planets, the less they resemble anything in the one planetary system they had known and on which they had based their theories: the sun's family of planets.

At last count, astronomers in the United States and Europe had observed 18 nearby sun-like stars showing telltale motions from the gravity of large, unseen planets orbiting them, and they fully expect to find more. Yet they suspect that they have seen enough to begin rethinking how nature creates and destroys planets and choreographs their orbital minuet.

Nine of the objects hug closer to their parent stars than Mercury is to the sun, closer than standard theory predicted planets could be; one is so near that it makes a complete revolution — its full year — every 3.1 Earth days. The other nine travel unusually elliptical, or oval-shaped, orbits, several of them plunging

in relatively close to their stars and then swinging far out again, orbits in the solar system are almost circular. Several extrasolar planets are at least three times as massive as Jupiter, the solar system's giant, and one is estimated to have 11 times the Jovian mass — raising questions about how massive can a planet be.

Geoffrey Marcy, the astronomer at San Francisco State University who has had a hand in most of the discoveries, is as surprised as anyone. "A trend is now being stamped on these discoveries that we thought, frankly, would go away," he said.

But it has not, and questions pile up. Many stars may have planets, as the discoveries suggest, but is there a typical pattern? Could the solar system be an oddball? If so, does that diminish prospects for intelligent life existing elsewhere in the universe?

Alan Boss, a theorist of planetary systems at the Carnegie Institution of Wash-

The discovery of planets around other stars is shaking up standard theory.

ington, thinks astronomers will eventually "find systems that look something like our solar system." He acknowledged that they will also "find many more surprises to make us rethink what we're doing."

Astronomers concede that so far their sampling of extrasolar planets may not be representative, only a reflection of detection capabilities. They have no proof yet of another sun-like star with more than one planet, or with anything considerably smaller than a Jupiter.

But it is easier to observe the gravitational effects of Jupiter-class planets, especially if they are very close to the host stars. It takes years of repeated observations to gather evidence for planets traveling the longer orbits at much greater distances from a star. And it is not yet possible to detect in any orbit, near or far, an Earth-size or even Saturn-size planet.

The newest detection, announced last month, was of the smallest extrasolar planet yet examined, one that has less than half of Jupiter's mass and is only 1.4

times more massive than Saturn. The planet, in a tight 3.5-day orbit around the star HD 75289, was found by a team of Swiss astronomers led by Michel Mayor of the Geneva Observatory, who in October 1995 reported the first confirmed planet around another star like the sun.

In the next decade, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration expects to fly several space telescopes for a more comprehensive survey of planets around nearby stars. On the drawing board is an advanced satellite called Planet Finder that someday could send back the first pictures of Earth-type extrasolar planets.

"It's a terribly exciting field right now," said Stephen Lubow, an astrophysicist at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore. "The discoveries have really opened a new window on the nature of planetary objects."

The first discoveries of extrasolar planets should have prepared astronomers to expect the unexpected. In 1992, radio astronomers reported the first strong evidence of such objects, but the two planets were not orbiting a normal star. They accompanied a pulsar, the dense remnant of an exploded star.

Mr. Mayor and Didier Queloz of Switzerland then detected a planet around 51 Pegasi, a solar-type star, and this was confirmed by Mr. Marcy and a colleague, R. Paul Butler. The first accepted planet of an ordinary star excited and puzzled astronomers. Both teams were startled to find that the planet, about half the mass of Jupiter, was in an almost circular orbit less than one-sixth the equivalent distance of Mercury to the sun.

Ever since then, theorists have been puzzling over how several of the large planets — dubbed "hot Jupiters" because of their proximity to the intense heat of their stars — could be where they are. Why were they not out somewhere the equivalent of the Jupiter-sun distance?

Because known physical laws rule out the formation of large planets so close to a star, theorists think they formed in a more benign environment far out and migrated inward. The unlucky ones probably crashed into their star.

One of the first detections by the Marcy-Butler team, announced in January 1996, introduced another puzzle. The planet around 70 Virginis was more than seven times the Jovian mass and not as close to its star as many others, but its orbit was highly elliptical. Other dis-

coveries revealed similar characteristics.

Some powerful gravitational forces, astrophysicists said, must have perturbed the planets' orbits. Frederic Rasio of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, working with Eric Ford, has proposed a concept of gravitational scattering that, he said, "explains very naturally and simply planets in wide eccentric orbits."

The idea involves two or more huge planets orbiting in close proximity so that they generate a kind of gravitational slingshot. The forces might sling one planet off on an elongated orbit to the inner planetary system, while the other might fly off toward the fringes of the system, perhaps escaping into interstellar space.

IN BRIEF

From the 16th Century, Message From the Stars

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A 400-year-old horoscope that was written for an Austrian nobleman by the astronomer Johannes Kepler himself was discovered in a drawer at a University of California at Santa Cruz archive.

The document, written in a flowery hand by the man who helped discover the laws of orbital motion, was found by an astronomer, Anthony Misch, in December while he was researching solar eclipse expeditions. It is not clear exactly what Kepler was predicting for the life of Hans Hannibal Hutter von Hutterhofen, who was born in 1586.

The document includes the nobleman's date and time of birth in German, as well as a sepi-colored diamond with an X through it enclosed by a square. It is signed by another eminent astronomer, Wilhelm Struve, declaring that the horoscope is written "in the hand of Kepler, from the collection of Kepler Manuscripts in Pulkova." The Pulkova observatory was founded near St. Petersburg in the early 1800s.

Preventing Baldness

LONDON (Reuters) — Proteins that make brain cells grow could lead to new drugs to prevent baldness or help people

get rid of unwanted hair, New Scientist magazine reported.

German dermatologists at Humboldt University in Berlin carried out experiments on shaved mice that showed that two growth factors and the genes that produce them might trigger follicle shrinkage. The scientists said the two substances worked by binding with a receptor on a cell. Drugs designed to block the receptor could prevent baldness, while others could increase hair loss by mimicking the action of the proteins.

Treating Lower Back Pain

CHICAGO (Reuters) — Lower back pain, one of the most common problems in modern society, can be treated by electrical stimulation through needles inserted in the muscles and soft tissue of the back, researchers report.

The report from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, said the technique offered effective short-term relief and appeared to have a cumulative effect that might offer "prolonged beneficial effects in patients with long-term lower back pain."

The treatment method — called percutaneous electrical nerve stimulation — is designed to stimulate peripheral

sensory nerves. It differs from acupuncture, which also at times employs electricity, in that instead of inserting needles in specified "acupuncture points," the probes are placed in areas that Western medicine has determined contain nerve endings. While the points might duplicate at times, it would be by chance, the researchers said.

On Breast-Feeding

UNITED NATIONS, New York (NYT) — Increased breast-feeding could save the lives of up to 1.5 million of the roughly 12 million children under the age of 5 who die every year around the world, according to initial findings presented by a group of women's organizations.

The organizations, which have been trying to measure the economic benefits of breast-feeding, told the annual meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women that they hope to counter what they see as a worldwide decline in the practice by convincing governments, health authorities and ordinary families that they should do more to encourage mothers to breast-feed.

Children who are not breast-fed tend to have weaker immune systems and are at greater risk from infectious diseases, especially diarrhea and respiratory illnesses, they say.

TIME

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STEP OUT OF YOUR WORLD

CAPITAL MARKETS ON MONDAY

Japan's Gamble on Interest Rates Poses Serious Risks to Yen and Economy

By Sheryl WuDunn
New York Times Service

TOKYO — The central bank has pushed overnight interest rates to an unprecedented low of effectively zero in one of its boldest experiments yet to invigorate the economy — basically allowing Japanese banks to borrow for free.

The Bank of Japan's move last week, which was one of the factors cited in the 5 percent surge in the Japanese stock market Friday, represents a gamble that banks will use this borrowed money to increase their own lending to businesses and individuals. The hope is that such a move will stimulate spending and generate a recovery in the world's second-largest economy, which is stuck in its worst recession since the end of World War II.

Lending rates in the overnight money market, a critical part of the banking system, have been well below 1 percent for a while — a sign of how fragile both the weakly capitalized banks and the economy have become over the past few years.

Last month, the Bank of Japan announced it would bring rates down to 0.15 percent. Last week, the central bank poured about \$10 billion to

\$15 billion into the market each day, and the rates fell to 0.04 percent, then to 0.03 percent, then to 0.02 percent, then to 0.01 percent on Thursday. On Friday, the rate settled at 0.02 percent.

That means the rate is less than one-tenth of the comparable level in the United States. At such a rate, a bank could borrow \$1 million overnight and pay just 27 cents in interest the next day.

Whether the astonishingly low rates will work is not yet clear. There are significant hazards to the approach — a massive flight of capital as investors seek higher returns in investments overseas, for example, or a plunge in the value of the yen. The Japanese currency did fall to a three-month low of 123.72 to the dollar in Tokyo on Friday, and some forecasters now say it could weaken to 130 fairly soon and far further later this year.

The biggest risk is that even with such low borrowing costs, the Bank of Japan may still not be able to coax banks to borrow and use that cheaper money to expand lending to companies throughout the country.

A critical problem now is that banks have been so absorbed in treating their mountains of bad debt that they have been simply unwilling to

make new loans and have even been cutting their lending.

"This is still a trial period," said Kazuo Momma, an official at the Bank of Japan. "It takes time to evaluate what is happening in the market."

On Friday, at least, the market liked it. Encouraged by the central bank's moves earlier in the week, as well as a formal application for public money by the nation's biggest banks, investors sent stocks rallying in the biggest one-day surge this year. That pushed the benchmark Nikkei 225 share average up 710.55 points, or 5.01 percent, to 14,894, its highest level since December.

The Bank of Japan's moves also brought down long-term bond rates, which last month were triple the level of October. The government is trying to exploit the economy with more spending, and this has spooked investors who had dumped bonds and sent their yields soaring. Higher yields can choke an economic recovery by raising long-term borrowing costs.

The yield on the 10-year Japanese government bond, a benchmark for long-term rates, fell to 1.57 percent Friday, a three-month low. The Bank of Japan was able to reduce

overnight lending rates by flooding the overnight money market with funds. The \$230 billion market is the lifeblood of the banking system and is a commonly used tool for banks and other financial institutions to borrow and lend short-term cash.

"It's amazing," said Akihiko Yokoyama, a fixed-income analyst at J.P. Morgan in Tokyo. "Can you imagine who would lend out money at zero percent?"

The answer seems to be: fewer and fewer lenders. And that could emerge as a problem. Insurance companies and investment trust funds no longer want to park their money there, and are putting it into regular bank deposit accounts or into longer-term money markets, such as one-month or three-month maturities.

Bank of Japan officials are suggesting that they may need to try to lower interest rates in the money markets for one-month or three-month borrowings. But that could ultimately lead to capital flight, as investors move money abroad for higher returns.

"It's definitely a problem at the moment," said Clifford Shaw, president of Mercury Asset Management Japan Ltd. "Having rates at zero has all sorts of implications."



Pedestrians in Tokyo walking past a board showing the sharp rise in the stock market Friday.

Most Active International Bonds

The 250 most active international bonds traded through the Euroclear system for the week ending March 5. Prices supplied by Telekurs.

Rank Name Cpn Maturity Price Cr/Yd

Australian Dollar

202 Queensland Tr 4 04/14/05 104.5000 4.2200

108 Queensland Tr 3 04/14/05 102.4200 4.2100

246 Queensland Tr 8 04/14/07 115.4 4.3500

British Pound

100 Lloyds Bank 4 12/07/28 95.5500 4.7200

100 Lloyds Bank 5 04/07/28 102.5500 4.5300

100 Lloyds Bank 6 04/07/28 101.2400 5.1800

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Calm After the Storm in Bond Market?

Jobs Report Seems to Vanquish Volatility and Fears of Rate Rise, for Now

Compiled by Paul Folen

NEW YORK — U.S. government securities trading might settle into a range in the coming week, strategists and investors said, after a volatile two-week period prompted by fears that the Federal Reserve Board might raise interest rates.

Bonds have been selling off ever since the chairman of the Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan, said in his semi-annual congressional testimony last month that the Fed might have to evaluate whether all the easing it put in place last autumn — in the midst of financial-market

Consolidated prices for all shares traded during week ended Friday, March 05

[illegible][illegible]

Index	City	Age	Low	Clas	Clas
1	10	10	10	10	10
2	10	10	10	10	10
3	10	10	10	10	10
4	10	10	10	10	10
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Continued on Page 21

صحة من الأمل

INTERNATIONAL INVESTING

Bourses Broaden Cooperation

London and Frankfurt to Publish Response to New York

PARIS — The London and Frankfurt stock exchanges will publish proposals in the next few days on bringing their regulations, trading hours and indexes into line with each other to create a common market for Europe's largest companies, representatives of the exchanges said over the weekend.

Their plans for a common trading system in Europe became more urgent when the New York Stock Exchange said Feb. 23 that it might extend trading hours to between 5 A.M. and midnight as it competes head-on with markets in Europe and Asia.

"The threat from the U.S. is going to speed up the negotiations in Europe," said Philippe Desmout, a fund manager at Group Euro in Paris.

The document from the London and Frankfurt exchanges will set out the exchanges' proposals to harmonize their rules. If all goes well, negotiations will then begin on the final stage, the creation of a common company that after 2000, will own and operate a pan-European exchange for the 300 European biggest stocks.

That may not be possible unless other exchanges join soon. The London and Frankfurt exchanges are already in talks with six of Europe's largest stock exchanges — Paris, Zurich, Milan, Madrid, Amsterdam and Brussels.

The Paris exchange has said it wants to join the new system, though it reacted with indignation to moves by London and Frankfurt

Profit Slump Cuts Salaries Of Merrill Lynch's Bosses

By Joseph Kahn
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The rising tide of executive pay did not lift all boats on Wall Street last year, with the top bosses at Merrill Lynch & Co. taking pay cuts to reflect the firm's profit slump.

David Komansky, chairman and chief executive, saw his total pay drop by 10.8 percent, to \$9.9 million from \$11.1 million in 1997. Total compensation for Herbert Allison Jr., chief operating officer, dropped by a similar percentage, to \$7.87 million from \$8.82 million.

The smaller paychecks came after Merrill posted weak results for 1998. The securities firm suffered losses on its bond holdings after Russia defaulted on its debt in August, prompting a temporary but deep plunge. Merrill cut 3,400 jobs, many of them in its fixed-income division. Most bankers at the firm received flat or reduced bonuses.

"It makes very clear to investors as well as employees that Komansky puts his money where his mouth is," said Joan Zimmerman, a vice president at GZ Stephens Inc., an executive search firm. "When the firm's profits are down, people expect senior executives to feel the heat of it."

The top bosses had little choice but to take a hit this year, said one Merrill banker who asked to remain anonymous. The firm frequently says employee compensation will be tightly linked to performance and profit, and the people at the top can hardly exempt themselves, he said.

There would have been a revolt around here if they paid themselves more," he said. "This is not a year anyone was thrilled about."

Other Wall Street executives did better. Lehman Brothers paid its chairman, Richard Fuld, \$13.3 million, an increase of 18 percent from 1997. Philip Purcell, chairman and chief executive of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co., took home total pay of \$31 million, including an exceptional options grant. His annual pay increased about 8 percent.

Profit at both Lehman and Morgan rose by about 15 percent last year.

Departure of Brazil Oil Chief May Open Privatization Door

RIO DE JANEIRO — The resignation of the head of the Brazilian state-controlled oil company, Petrobras, is a signal that the cash-strapped government is ready to sell off a chunk of the huge, secretive company, analysts said.

Joel Renno, who headed Petrobras Brasileiro SA for six years and modernized its operations, said late Friday that he had finished his job and he would be replaced immediately by Transport Director Admiral Arnaldo Leite Pereira, who becomes acting president.

Mr. Renno prepared the Rio-based company, Brazil's largest in terms of assets, for competition after 46 years of monopoly over oil and gas rights.

Speculation has been rife that Mr. Renno would be replaced by Luiz Carlos Mendonça de Barros, a former communications minister, who led the privatization of the Telebras telecommunications system in July. Petrobras share prices have soared since rumors about the accession of Mr. Mendonça surfaced at the end of last month.

Analysts said Mr. Renno tightly gripped the reins of power, running Petrobras as if it were a branch of the government. His wariness of the private sector meant Petrobras negotiated for years on such cooperative projects as the Bolivia-Brazil gas pipeline, they said.

After the government set up an independent regulator, which started to strip Petrobras of its monopoly, the company began to pay more attention to shareholder concerns about earnings and investment returns.

A foreign oil company official said: "Petrobras has been held back by the current management. A change would be welcomed. It would probably mean they were looking to sell at least a part of it."

Government officials have insisted they are not planning a controversial privatization of the company, although there are plans to reduce the state's stake to 50 percent plus 1 share.

For years Petrobras was reluctant to share information. Under Mr. Renno's tenure, the company actively started counting publicity and trimming costs to get in shape for competition from big foreign oil concerns.

Recently, Petrobras has been scrambling to forge partnerships to meet deadlines on exploration and production imposed by the new regulator.

Separately, an International Monetary Fund spokesman said he expected to be able to announce Monday a new credit lifeline for Brazil, after weeks of talks on how to save Latin America's powerhouse economy from a deep currency crisis.

Shailendra Anjaria said he expected IMF management to recommend Brazil receive a second payment in a \$41.5 billion package of loan guarantees.

MARKETS: Global Pressures

Continued from Page 1

Stock Exchange. "The old methods of exchanging stocks just no longer meet the needs of the investing community."

That community has undergone drastic change in recent years.

Unprecedented numbers of Americans are trading stocks, directly and through mutual funds, and pension plans. Moreover, they have easier access to the markets than ever before, thanks to low-cost on-line brokerage accounts, Internet investing sites and the new trading networks. Finally, they and investors elsewhere in the world are more readily investing money in companies and markets far from their homelands.

All of this has touched off a stunning acceleration in the competition among the institutions that provide stock-trading services, said Richard Grasso, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange.

The exchange and Nasdaq, which are not-for-profit associations accustomed to competing only with one another, now face a plethora of new private trading networks called electronic communications networks.

The owners of these trading services aim to profit by providing an electronic meeting place where stocks can be traded and by collecting commissions on each trade.

In addition, the New York exchange, a U.S. leader in international stock trading, is anticipating a foreign threat. Now that Europe has a single currency, a pan-European stock exchange may soon emerge, perhaps this year.

To be sure, this competition is driving down the commissions that investors pay to trade.

"Competition can create confusion, but on balance, the individual investor is being empowered," said Hans Stoll, a finance professor at Vanderbilt University.

But that confusion is unsettling many market participants said.

"The technology is the tail wagging the dog," said Scott Sabar, a former trader and senior vice president at VIE Systems Inc., an institutional software provider. "No one is saying: 'Is this the best way? How will this impact the market?' They just say, 'We can do this and make money.'"

Mr. Grasso said he expected to report to the board by the end of June his opinion on whether the New York Stock Exchange should build or buy its own electronic network for trading stocks not listed on the exchange.

But if the Big Board readily trades stocks of companies that have not met its tough listing standards, it may have more difficulty enforcing those rules, Mr. Coffee said.

Some of those standards provide important protections for U.S. investors, he added. For example, the New York exchange requires listed companies to have wholly independent audit committees and a majority of independent directors — neither of which is required under federal securities laws.

Mr. Grasso insisted that protecting the standards and reputation of the exchange would be paramount as his board considered adding a second trading service.

The boom in electronic communications networks was actually encouraged by rule changes intended to improve the Nasdaq market.

Those changes allowed electronic communications

NTT
Do Co Mo



18. - 24. 3. 1999
CeBIT
HANNOVER
Hall 25 D-24

Pocket a world of dreams

Cellular phones are perhaps one of the most user-friendly devices modern technology has devised. However, can you imagine the potential stored within?

We can. We are NTT DoCoMo, Japan's leading mobile communications operator. We are committed to expanding the frontiers of mobile communications convenience in ways most people have never dreamed of. Imagine the advantages of browsing the Internet; exchanging e-mail; conducting banking and stock transactions; making flight reservations and even checking the news and weather at your next destination via HTML-based text information on your cellular phone. These services become available in Japan from February 1999.

We're also actively participating in the Wireless Application Protocol Forum (WAP) in its quest for a universal standard. In addition, our next logical

step of full-motion video reception and transmission capability, using the Wideband Code Division Multiple Access (W-CDMA) technology, is well under way.

We hope to begin such services in early 2001.

At NTT DoCoMo's R&D center in Japan, we are dedicated to developing the mobile communications technologies of the future. We also invite leading manufacturers, operators and other R&D organizations from around the world to participate in ongoing technology exchange and open system tests.

See these and other NTT DoCoMo developments dedicated to more convenient business and leisure lifestyles at CeBIT'99.



NTT Mobile Communications Network, Inc.

<http://www.nttdocomo.com>

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

The IMF makes a review of the economies of each of its 182 member countries every year. (Reuters, AFP)

By Agis Salpukas
New York Times Service

It is a buyers' market, but the fact that there is a market at all in nuclear plants is a sign of how deregulation is reshaping the U.S. power industry. Entergy, along with companies like

They will concentrate on the delivery of electricity and on providing service to business and residential customers. Utilities like



Mr. Rubin estimates 25 to 30 plants will soon change hands or be shot down.

Reuters

In an interview with Deutschlandfunk radio Sunday, the chancellor criticized employers for threatening to withdraw from the Alliance for Jobs talks after the new labor contracts.

Mr. Schroeder made job creation the corner-

way," Mr. Schroeder said.

PARIS (Reuters) — The economy will not grow by 2.7 percent this year as the government had originally hoped but will rebound strongly after a weak first quarter, the finance minister of France, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, said Sunday.

"I think that we are going to rediscover our natural rhythm of growth between 2.5 percent and 3 percent over the long run, starting from the second quarter or from the summer," Mr. Strauss-Kahn said in an interview on French television.

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DUBAI (Reuters) — The oil minister of Iran, Bijan Zanganeh, is due to hold talks with his Saudi counterpart, Ali al-Naimi, in Riyadh on Sunday in the latest secret meeting between the two leading OPEC powers, an industry source said. The ministers were expected to discuss ways of aligning their views on rescuing low oil prices.

A question mark has been hanging over Longbridge—Britain's largest car plant—since BMW announced a review of the unprofitable plant last year and then fired its chief executive, Bernd Pischetsrieder, because of Rover's problems. The Rover plant is a major employer in the English Midlands area, with a staff of more than 12,000.

INDIANAPOLIS (Blomberg)—Paul Harris Stores Inc., a women's clothing retailer, said it would buy the closely held bankrupt retailer J. Peterman Co. for \$10 million to expand into the market for more upscale clothing. Paul Harris will assume no debt under the transaction, which was approved by the bankruptcy court in Lexington, Kentucky, said Tom McCain, chief financial officer of Paul Harris.

The one-time loss stemmed from the 870 billion won in debts it assumed from Ssangyong Motor Co. and interest payments on the debts as part of the terms of the sale of the unit to Daewon Group in December 1997. The loss is equivalent to 91 percent of the cement maker's annual sales last year, Ssangyong Cement said.

Continued from Page 15

Ethernet adapters are cards inserted in a computer that enable it to connect to high-speed networks within corpora-

"I think this is horrendous," said Jason Catlett, president of Junkbusters, a consumer privacy organization. "They're tattooing a number into each file. Think of the implications. If

companies such as Microsoft, AOL and Netscape will try to squeeze out privacy," he added, referring to America Online Inc. and the browser maker Netscape Communications Corp.

Bloomberg News

The investment is a shot in the arm for Singapore, which needs to create jobs after it slid last year into its first recession in 13 years.

Continued from Page 15

small fraction of their planned information-equipment expenses for purchases of computer software, spending most of the funds on hardware. (Bloomberg, AFP)

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The Annual Shareholders' Meeting
For
Internet.

Meeting will be held on May 3, 1999 at 2
5 avenue Gabriel - 75008 Paris.
Quarter sales announcement: April 12,
<http://www.groupe-seb.com> - <http://www>

Jacques Gairard
30 p.m. at Pavillon Gabriel.
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online.com

[illegible]

NATIONAL MARKET

Fund	Assets	YTD %	12-M %	3-M %	6-M %	1-Yr %	2-Yr %	3-Yr %	4-Yr %	5-Yr %	6-Yr %	7-Yr %	8-Yr %	9-Yr %	10-Yr %	11-Yr %	12-Yr %	13-Yr %	14-Yr %	15-Yr %	16-Yr %	17-Yr %	18-Yr %	19-Yr %	20-Yr %	21-Yr %	22-Yr %	23-Yr %	24-Yr %	25-Yr %	26-Yr %	27-Yr %	28-Yr %	29-Yr %	30-Yr %				
1. Fidelity Divers Intl	1,234,567	12.34	15.67	8.90	10.12	11.23	13.45	14.56	16.78	17.89	19.01	20.12	21.23	22.34	23.45	24.56	25.67	26.78	27.89	28.90	29.01	30.12	31.23	32.34	33.45	34.56	35.67	36.78	37.89	38.90	39.01	40.12	41.23	42.34	43.45				
2. Fidelity Divers Intl	987,654	11.23	14.56	7.89	9.01	10.12	12.34	13.45	15.67	16.78	17.89	19.01	20.12	21.23	22.34	23.45	24.56	25.67	26.78	27.89	28.90	29.01	30.12	31.23	32.34	33.45	34.56	35.67	36.78	37.89	38.90	39.01	40.12	41.23	42.34	43.45			
3. Fidelity Divers Intl	765,432	10.12	13.45	6.78	8.90	9.01	11.23	12.34	14.56	15.67	16.78	17.89	19.01	20.12	21.23	22.34	23.45	24.56	25.67	26.78	27.89	28.90	29.01	30.12	31.23	32.34	33.45	34.56	35.67	36.78	37.89	38.90	39.01	40.12	41.23	42.34	43.45		
4. Fidelity Divers Intl	543,210	9.01	12.34	5.67	7.89	8.90	10.12	11.23	13.45	14.56	15.67	16.78	17.89	19.01	20.12	21.23	22.34	23.45	24.56	25.67	26.78	27.89	28.90	29.01	30.12	31.23	32.34	33.45	34.56	35.67	36.78	37.89	38.90	39.01	40.12	41.23	42.34	43.45	
5. Fidelity Divers Intl	321,098	8.90	11.23	4.56	6.78	7.89	9.01	10.12	12.34	13.45	14.56	15.67	16.78	17.89	19.01	20.12	21.23	22.34	23.45	24.56	25.67	26.78	27.89	28.90	29.01	30.12	31.23	32.34	33.45	34.56	35.67	36.78	37.89	38.90	39.01	40.12	41.23	42.34	43.45

This table shows the performance of Fidelity funds through Friday and indicates the top 4,000 funds in each group indicated below. Funds that are not in the top 4,000 are not shown. Funds are ranked by assets under management as of 12/31/99. Funds are ranked by assets under management as of 12/31/99. Funds are ranked by assets under management as of 12/31/99.

Group names are shown in bold face, with individual fund names in each group indicated below. Funds that are not in the top 4,000 are not shown. Funds are ranked by assets under management as of 12/31/99. Funds are ranked by assets under management as of 12/31/99. Funds are ranked by assets under management as of 12/31/99.

NAV is the net asset value, i.e., the portfolio value divided by the number of shares outstanding. NAV is reported by the fund through Fidelity. NAV is reported by the fund through Fidelity. NAV is reported by the fund through Fidelity.

Names field contains: c - available only through contractual plans; n - not available; p - fund assets are used to pay deferred sales load; r - redemption fee or contingent deferred sales load may apply; t - transaction fee and commission.

Price field contains: c - available only through contractual plans; n - not available; p - fund assets are used to pay deferred sales load; r - redemption fee or contingent deferred sales load may apply; t - transaction fee and commission.

This table shows the performance of Hounding funds, mutual funds that invest in and promote the sale of more than 4,000 funds in terms of assets. There are roughly 6,500 funds currently listed on Hounding.

Group names are shown in bold face, with individual fund names in each group indented below. Funds that are not part of a group are not indented.

HAV is the net asset value, i.e., the portfolio value divided by the number of shares outstanding, as reported by the fund through Hounding. HAV may differ from sales or redemption charges. Change shows the variation from the previous Friday.

Waste fund footnotes: c = available only through computer plans; n = no transaction load or contingent deferred sales load; r = redemption fee or contingent distribution costs; r+ = redemption fee or contingent deferred sales load may apply; ? = footnotes A and B apply.

Price fund footnotes: r = net capital gains; c = contingent deferred sales charge; v = previous day's quotations; a = stock dividend or stock split.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

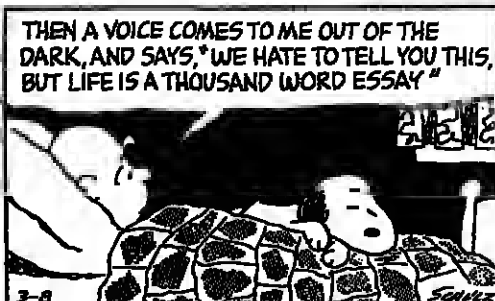
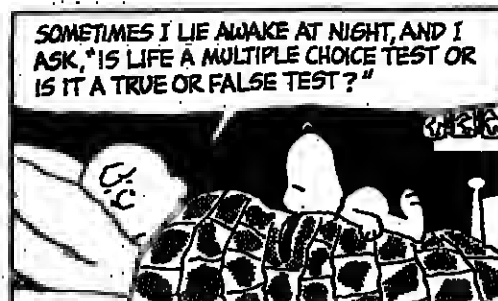
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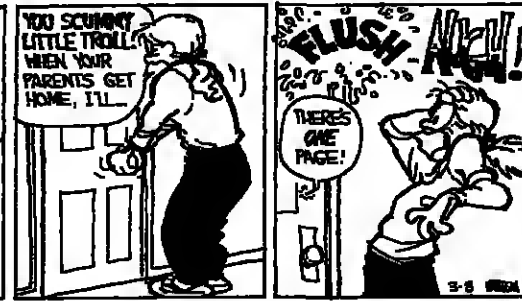
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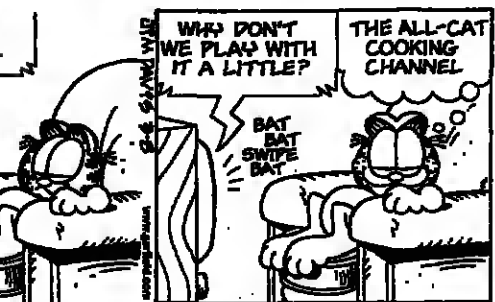
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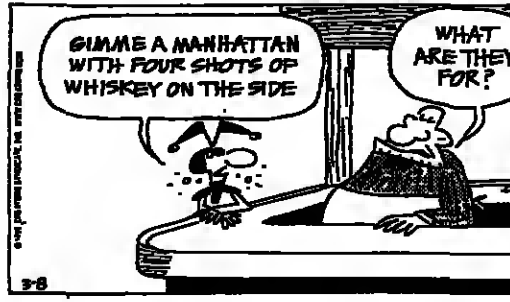
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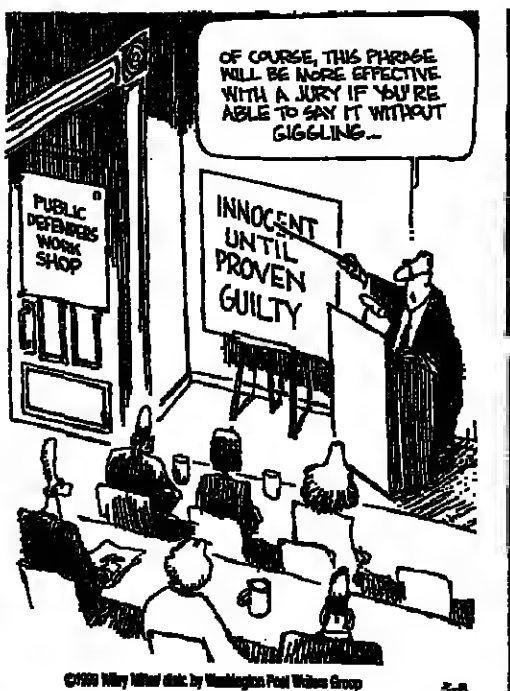
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THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

SPORTS

Gebrselassie and Szabo a Dynamic Duo At World Meet

The Associated Press
MAEBASHI, Japan — Haile Gebrselassie, the dominant Ethiopian with the million-dollar smile and bankroll to match, and Gabriela Szabo, the resilient Romanian, each completed double-barreled victories Sunday.

Gebrselassie captured the men's 4500-meter race at the World Track Indoor Championships, having won the 3,000 meters Friday, while Szabo took the women's 3,000 meters, having triumphed in the 1,500 meters Saturday.

It was the first time at the championships that one man and one woman had swept those races.

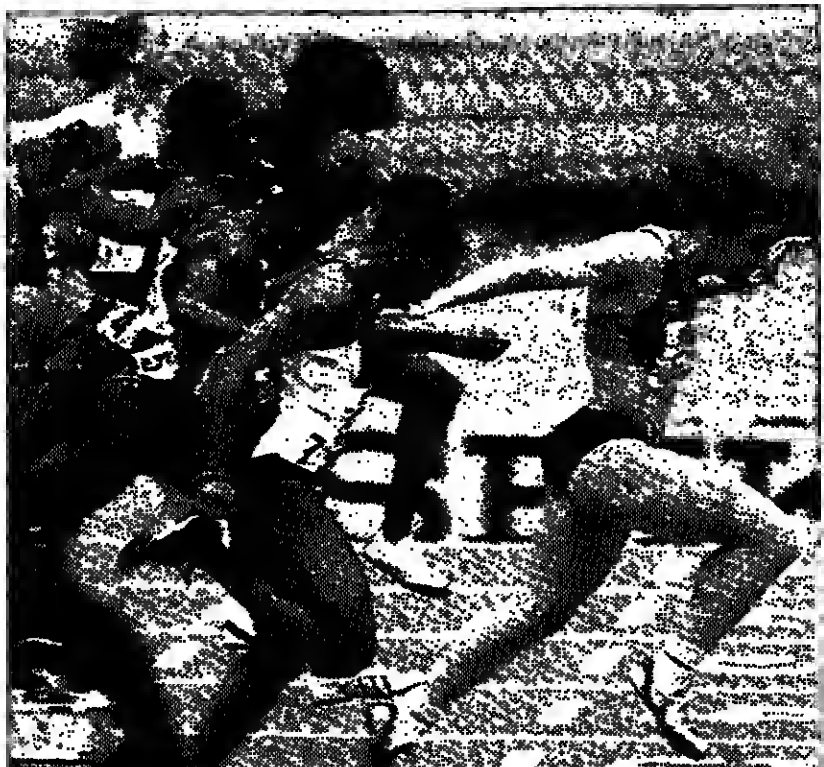
Gebrselassie, perhaps the best and most versatile distance runner since Paavo Nurmi of Finland, capped his distance double by winning the 1,500 meters in 3 minutes, 37.77 seconds, a meet record, in a heated duel with Lelisa Retch of Kenya.

Szabo finished off her double triumph by winning the 3,000 meters in 8:36.42, passing Zaira Oussiss of Morocco with a stinging last lap.

Gebrselassie never had a major title in the 1,500, but when the heats of the 3,000 were canceled because of a lack of competitors, Gebrselassie knew his chances had improved immensely.

He won the 3,000 Friday in 7:53.57, but his 1,500 semifinal Saturday and completed the sweep Sunday. The double wasn't quite as dramatic as Nurmi's victories in the 1,500 meters and 5,000 meters about 75 minutes apart at the 1924 Olympics in Paris, but it added to Gebrselassie's impressive array of titles.

He has won the world outdoor 10,000-meter title three times, the world indoor 3,000 twice and the Olympic 10,000 meters once. He holds the world outdoor records in the 5,000 meters and 10,000 meters, and is unbeaten in the 10,000



Tom Williams/Agence France Press

Ekaterini Thanou of Greece winning the women's 60-meter dash in Maebashi, Japan. Gail Devers of the United States, center, was second.

since June 1993. And he's only 25.

Szabo is even younger, at 23, and is making rapid strides to become the queen of women's distance runners. She also had to run several races at the championships: the heats of the 1,500 on Friday, the 1,500 final on Saturday (winning in a meet record of 4:03.23) and the 3,000 on Sunday, which she won for the third consecutive year.

The double victories overshadowed the two world records set at the championships, by the 4-by-400-meter relay team of the United States in the men's event, and by Russia in the women's event. Also, there were major upsets in the men's and women's 800-meter events and a dramatic victory by the Cuban long jumper, Ivan Pedroso.

Milt Campbell led the U.S. 1,600-meter relay team to victory in 3:02.83, overtaking Robert Mackowiak of Poland down the final straightaway.

The Russian women's team of Tatyana Chebykina, Svetlana Goncharenko, Olga Kotlyarova and Natalya Naz-

arova clocked 3:24.25, to beat Australia (3:26.87) and the United States (3:27.59).

In the women's 800 meters, Ludmila Formanova of the Czech Republic handed Maria Mutola of Mozambique her first indoor defeat since June 1993, winning in 1:56.90, a meet record. Mutola, seeking her fourth straight title, finished second. Johan Botha of South Africa beat the world-record holder, Wilson Kipketer of Denmark, by two hundredths of a second in the men's 800 meters in 1:43.47.

The most pulsating finish came in the men's long jump. On the next-to-last jump of the competition, Yago Lamela of Spain took the lead at 8.56 meters (28 feet, 3 inches), then Pedroso followed with a leap of 8.62 meters to win the title.

Other winners Sunday included Ekaterini Thanou of Greece, who won the women's 60-meter dash in 6.96 seconds, and Maurice Greene of the United States who took the men's 60 meters in 6.42 seconds, a meet record.

Wales Avenges a Year-Old Rout

By Peter Berlin
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Just one year after losing by a record score to France, Wales took its revenge with a one-point victory in a France's charge of a game that ended France's hopes of a record third consecutive Grand Slam.

Wales won, 34-33, at the Stade de France on Saturday, to record its first victory as a visiting team against the French since 1975.

Last year in London, the French backs tore the Welsh apart as France won, 51-0. On Saturday, the Welsh met fire with fire. They signaled their intentions in the opening minutes when Neil Jenkins, a fly half best known for his kicking, sprang through the French defense. Jenkins' teammates seemed as surprised as the French defenders, but the attack died a few feet from the line as Jenkins looked desperately for reinforcements.

Within six minutes, the Welsh were rewarded for their attacking play when Colin Charvis, their back-row forward, stretched out to touch down.

France then hit back with a series of dazzling attacks. Emile Nnamack, the French fullback, held off his smaller opposite number, Shane Howarth, to gather a kick and touch down. Nnamack quickly scored a second try after another kick ahead, and the fly half Thomas Castaignede converted to put France briefly in the lead.

The Welsh refused to buckle. Jenkins put the winger Dafydd James in for a try in the corner. Then Robert Howley, the scrum half, scrambled away from the French defense and passed to Craig Quinell, who was free on the wing. When the lock forward recovered from his surprise, he rumbled over for a try and Wales led, 28-18, at halftime.

Last year at Wembley Stadium, Jenkins had been humiliated by Castaignede, who time and again ran past his

FIVE-NATIONS ROOST

Welsh counterpart as if he wasn't there. This time, however, Jenkins had the last laugh. Although he started the second half by missing four consecutive penalty kicks, he steered to kick two more to take his total for the game to 19 points.

Even though Nnamack completed his hat-trick of tries and Castaignede touched down, Wales led by one point entering the final minute. Then the Welsh conceded a penalty and Castaignede lined up to take it.

France had won its opening match by a point after David Humphreys of Ireland missed with a last-second penalty. This time they lost the same way, as Castaignede missed.

"It's the best match I have seen in my coaching career," said Graham Henry, the Wales coach. Jean-Claude Skrela, the French coach, lavished praise on Wales. "One could say that today we saw the All Blacks playing in red jerseys,"

Skrela said, referring to the powerful New Zealand national team. "I think that the Welsh played rugby as it should be played nowadays."

Bnt Henry, a New Zealander who was an assistant coach with the All Blacks, was more cautious. "We didn't play All Black rugby. We played a game based on what we've got. It's a start, a foundation, but we are still nowhere near the level we need to be competitive. It is one win, and we have a long way to go."

England 27, Ireland 18 in Dublin, England survived a bruising match to stay unbeaten.

England dominated for long periods and scored two tries, the first well-finished by the fullback Matt Perry in the 34th minute, and the second by the lock Tim Rodber in the final minute.

Jonny Wilkinson landed four penalties and a conversion, while Paul Grayson added a drop goal.

Ireland's forwards were able to match England's pack, but its backs showed little cutting edge. The team has failed to score a try in either of its home games in the Five Nations this season.

Humphreys kicked all of Ireland's points as England conceded a record 22 penalties.

Scotland 30, Italy 12 in Edinburgh, Scotland beat Italy in a friendly match and gained revenge for a defeat in Italy a year ago. Kenny Logan scored 20 points, including a try. Cammy Murray and Gregor Townsend also touched down for the Scots.

Maier Clinches Super-G Cup in Austrian Sweep

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

KVITFJELL, Norway — Hermann Maier won the super-G World Cup on Sunday by leading an Austrian sweep of the first three places in the discipline's next-to-last race of the season.

The victory also pushed Maier into a strong position to retain his overall World Cup title. He has almost caught the leaders, Kjetil Andre Aamodt and Lasse Kjus of Norway, with only four events to come, in Spain.

The Austrian almost lost his balance on the steep, twisting Kvitfjell course but ended in 1 minute 30.70 seconds,

ahead of teammate Stephan Eberharter on 1:31.17 and Andreas Schifferer on 1:31.29.

It was Maier's fourth super-G victory of the season in five races, and it took him to 480 points compared with 310 for his nearest rival, Eberharter. There is one race left, worth 100 points to the winner, in Sierra Nevada, Spain, on Thursday.

In the overall standings, which add together points won in four disciplines, Aamodt leads with 1,267 points ahead of Kjus at 1,259 and Maier at 1,242. Kjus ended sixth in the race Sunday;

Aamodt was eighth.

In St. Moritz, Switzerland, Michaela Dorfmeister of Austria won the women's super-G World Cup on Saturday and her compatriot, Alexandra Meissnitzer, made sure of winning the women's overall combined title.

Dorfmeister recorded a time of 1:29.17, ahead of another Austrian, Renate Gotschl, who finished 20 hundredths of a second behind. Kathleen Monahan of the United States was third, 40 hundredths back. Meissnitzer, in fourth, picked up enough points for first place in the World Cup.

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

EXHIBITION BASEBALL

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta Braves	1	0	.100	0
Los Angeles Angels	1	0	.100	0
San Francisco Giants	1	0	.100	0
St. Louis Cardinals	1	0	.100	0
Washington Nationals	1	0	.100	0
Arizona Diamondbacks	1	0	.100	0
Colorado Rockies	1	0	.100	0
Florida Marlins	1	0	.100	0
Montreal Expos	1	0	.100	0
New York Yankees	1	0	.100	0
Pittsburgh Pirates	1	0	.100	0
San Diego Padres	1	0	.100	0
Seattle Mariners	1	0	.100	0
Tampa Bay Rays	1	0	.100	0
Texas Rangers	1	0	.100	0
Toronto Blue Jays	1	0	.100	0
White Sox	1	0	.100	0
Yankees	1	0	.100	0

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta Hawks	1	0	.100	0
Los Angeles Lakers	1	0	.100	0
San Francisco Warriors	1	0	.100	0
St. Louis Cardinals	1	0	.100	0
Washington Nationals	1	0	.100	0
Arizona Diamondbacks	1	0	.100	0
Colorado Rockies	1	0	.100	0
Florida Marlins	1	0	.100	0
Montreal Expos	1	0	.100	0
New York Yankees	1	0	.100	0
Pittsburgh Pirates	1	0	.100	0
San Diego Padres	1	0	.100	0
Seattle Mariners	1	0	.100	0
Tampa Bay Rays	1	0	.100	0
Texas Rangers	1	0	.100	0
Toronto Blue Jays	1	0	.100	0
White Sox	1	0	.100	0
Yankees	1	0	.100	0

ICE HOCKEY

NHL STANDINGS

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta Hawks	1	0	.100	0
Los Angeles Lakers	1	0	.100	0
San Francisco Warriors	1	0	.100	0
St. Louis Cardinals	1	0	.100	0
Washington Nationals	1	0	.100	0
Arizona Diamondbacks	1	0	.100	0
Colorado Rockies	1	0	.100	0
Florida Marlins	1	0	.100	0
Montreal Expos	1	0	.100	0
New York Yankees	1	0	.100	0
Pittsburgh Pirates	1	0	.100	0
San Diego Padres	1	0	.100	0
Seattle Mariners	1	0	.100	0
Tampa Bay Rays	1	0	.100	0
Texas Rangers	1	0	.100	0
Toronto Blue Jays	1	0	.100	0
White Sox	1	0	.100	0
Yankees	1	0	.100	0

CRICKET

ASIAN TEST CHAMPIONSHIP

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta Hawks	1	0	.100	0
Los Angeles Lakers	1	0	.100	0
San Francisco Warriors	1	0	.100	0
St. Louis Cardinals	1	0	.100	0
Washington Nationals	1	0	.100	0
Arizona Diamondbacks	1	0	.100	0
Colorado Rockies	1	0	.100	0
Florida Marlins	1	0	.100	0
Montreal Expos	1	0	.100	0
New York Yankees	1	0	.100	0
Pittsburgh Pirates	1	0	.100	0
San Diego Padres	1	0	.100	0
Seattle Mariners	1	0	.100	0
Tampa Bay Rays	1	0	.100	0
Texas Rangers	1	0	.100	0
Toronto Blue Jays	1	0	.100	0
White Sox	1	0	.100	0
Yankees	1	0	.100	0

TRACK & FIELD

WORLD INDOOR CHAMPIONS

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta Hawks	1	0	.100	0
Los Angeles Lakers	1	0	.100	0
San Francisco Warriors	1	0	.100	0
St. Louis Cardinals	1	0	.100	0
Washington Nationals	1	0	.100	0
Arizona Diamondbacks	1	0	.100	0
Colorado Rockies	1	0	.100	0
Florida Marlins	1	0	.100	0
Montreal Expos	1	0	.100	0
New York Yankees	1	0	.100	0
Pittsburgh Pirates	1	0	.100	0
San Diego Padres	1	0	.100	0
Seattle Mariners	1	0	.100	0
Tampa Bay Rays	1	0	.100	0
Texas Rangers	1	0	.100	0
Toronto Blue Jays	1	0	.100	0
White Sox	1	0	.100	0
Yankees	1	0	.100	0

SOCCER

AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta Hawks	1	0	.100	0
Los Angeles Lakers	1	0	.100	0
San Francisco Warriors	1	0	.100	0
St. Louis Cardinals	1	0	.100	0
Washington Nationals	1	0	.100	0
Arizona Diamondbacks	1	0	.100	0
Colorado Rockies	1	0	.100	0
Florida Marlins	1	0	.100	0
Montreal Expos	1	0	.100	0
New York Yankees	1	0	.100	0
Pittsburgh Pirates	1	0	.100	0
San Diego Padres	1	0	.100	0
Seattle Mariners	1	0	.100	0
Tampa Bay Rays	1	0	.100	0
Texas Rangers	1	0	.100	0
Toronto Blue Jays	1	0	.100	0
White Sox	1	0	.100	0
Yankees	1	0	.100	0

TRANSITIONS

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta Hawks	1	0	.100	0
Los Angeles Lakers	1	0	.100	0
San Francisco Warriors	1	0	.100	0
St. Louis Cardinals	1	0	.100	0
Washington Nationals	1	0	.100	0
Arizona Diamondbacks	1	0	.100	0
Colorado Rockies	1	0	.100	0
Florida Marlins	1	0	.100	0
Montreal Expos	1	0	.100	0
New York Yankees	1	0	.100	0
Pittsburgh Pirates	1	0	.100	0
San Diego Padres	1	0	.100	0
Seattle Mariners	1	0	.100	0
Tampa Bay Rays	1	0	.100	0
Texas Rangers	1	0	.100	0
Toronto Blue Jays	1	0	.100	0
White Sox	1	0	.100	0
Yankees	1	0	.100	0

SPORTS

Despite Scandal, Many IOC Delegates Remain Loyal to Samaranch

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

BERLIN — Even as critics around the world clamor for his resignation, Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, still appears to enjoy strong support from IOC delegates — many chosen by Mr. Samaranch himself — who fear a vicious succession fight could destroy the Olympic movement.

But as the IOC prepares for an emergency session March 17 and 18 to deal with corruption charges that have implicated a fifth of its members, people involved in the Olympics worry that the close-knit IOC will refuse — or is unable — to take the kind of dramatic steps needed to restore the Games' luster.

In the wake of the scandal surrounding the Olympic bidding process, Mr. Samaranch has come under particular pressure from the United States.

Speaking privately, officials of the U.S. Olympic Committee said they have told Mr. Samaranch "in no uncertain terms" that he must step down soon. They said they spelled out the dangers for the Olympic movement if he stays on and if the IOC fails to adopt democratic

reforms to restore credibility among the public and corporate sponsors.

But inside the closed world of the IOC, where personal loyalty to Mr. Samaranch is strong, a far different dynamic is at work. The vast majority of delegates owe their positions to the Spaniard. Until the time of the scandal, Mr. Samaranch personally had selected 92 of the 114 IOC members.

Since the Salt Lake City scandal broke nearly four months ago, Mr. Samaranch has rejected calls that he be held accountable and has brushed aside claims that his fondness for exorbitant gifts during his 18-year tenure may have nurtured a climate of corruption in the IOC.

Interviews with more than a dozen IOC delegates suggest that Mr. Samaranch is likely to survive a vote of confidence at the meeting this month because he is seen as the only authority figure who can carry out reforms deemed necessary to restore credibility to the organization.

"The captain of our ship must remain at the controls until we get through the storm," said Richard Pound, an IOC vice president from Canada who is often mentioned as a leading candidate to succeed Mr. Samaranch. "When we come out at the other end, then we can

decide on the future of our leadership. But it's premature to do so in the middle of a crisis."

Anita De Frantz, one of two American IOC members, said, "He rescued the Games from political boycotts and from bankruptcy. He brought women into the IOC and more female athletes into Olympic competition. We owe so much to him that I believe he deserves the chance to finish his term on a high note by leading the reform drive."

Mario Vazquez Rana, president of the Mexican Olympic Committee, said that while he viewed criticism of the IOC as "positive and necessary," he could not accept laying any blame on the man at the top.

"No IOC member has any motives to criticize Samaranch," he said. "Quite the contrary, I believe all see him with due respect and admiration as their leader, because of the way he has guided the destiny of the Olympic movement."

Although Mr. Samaranch is 78 and appears at times to be in failing health, the absence of an anointed successor is testament to the manner in which he has cut down potential rivals.

In 1995, Mr. Pound was poised to seize the leadership after winning praise for conducting negotiations that reaped

a fortune for the IOC in Olympic sponsorships and broadcasting rights. But when he sought to block Mr. Samaranch's effort to prolong his stay in office by extending the retirement age to 80, Mr. Pound found himself isolated by the rest of the IOC membership.

Angered by what he saw as Mr. Pound's unseemly bid for power, IOC sources said, Mr. Samaranch then shifted his patronage toward Kim Un Yong, a former deputy director of the South Korean intelligence agency during an era of brutal military dictatorships who was promoted to the IOC executive board after his stewardship of the 1988 Seoul Games. Mr. Kim rapidly built a solid bloc of supporters in Asia, Africa and Latin America that began to pose a formidable challenge to Mr. Pound's narrower backing in Europe and North America.

IN 1996, Mr. Kim nearly managed to shove Mr. Pound off the executive board by putting up a challenger — with Mr. Samaranch's blessing — for the Canadian's seat. Mr. Kim's candidate, Ashwini Kumar of India, who was regarded as little more than the South Korean's lackey, lost to Mr. Pound by only two votes.

But Mr. Kim stands accused of using

his influence to secure lucrative consulting jobs for his son and concert dates for his pianist daughter in the Salt Lake City scandal. Even if he escapes expulsion as the highest-ranking IOC member to become implicated in the scandal, Mr. Kim's chances of succeeding Mr. Samaranch seem badly damaged.

Mr. Kim has angrily denied the bribery allegations and accused Mr. Pound of using his role as head of the IOC investigation to undercut Mr. Samaranch and sabotage Mr. Kim's candidacy.

"Such persistent attempts to smear both my reputation and the leadership of President Samaranch are political and designed to undermine the stability of his leadership, as well as to affect the succession of his presidency," Mr. Kim told reporters after the charges were made public.

Mr. Kim dismissed as "too risky" any possibility that Mr. Pound and other members of the commission would recommend his expulsion in the days before the IOC session is convened.

"When the time comes, I will fight back," Mr. Kim said. "I have a lot of ammunition."

As for Mr. Pound, IOC sources said Mr. Samaranch may have handed him a poisoned chalice by appointing him to

review ethical misconduct of other members.

Other presidential candidates, all former Olympic athletes, are said to include Jacques Rogge, an orthopedic surgeon from Belgium and executive board member who heads the European Olympic committees; Kevan Gosper, an Australian executive board member who heads the IOC's press commission and has been active in preparing the Sydney Games; and Jean-Claude Killy, the French skier and businessman who carries a touch of celebrity glamour but also enough political guile to remain aloof from internal wrangling over the scandal.

Mr. Samaranch has staked the future of his presidency on a vote of confidence in a new formula for selecting the host city for the 2006 Winter Games, which must be approved by two-thirds of the IOC's 108 members.

Under the formula, IOC members will lose their cherished travel privileges to inspect candidate cities. Those visits became the proximate cause of the bribery scandal, as IOC members were showered with gifts that, in some cases, involved cash payments, scholarships and lucrative jobs for family members as a way of garnering their support.

Duke Routs Tar Heels to Capture ACC Championship

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

Duke seized a piece of Atlantic Coast Conference history, and now awaits the NCAA tournament as a team in full command.

The No. 1 Blue Devils (32-1) routed No. 15 North Carolina, 96-73, in the conference championship game Sunday, completing an unbeaten run through the ACC regular season and postseason.

William Avery had 29 points and Elton Brand scored 24 for Duke (32-1), which won its 27th straight game and denied the Tar Heels (24-9) a chance at a third consecutive ACC title.

North Carolina had enjoyed good luck against Duke in previous ACC title games, going 6-2 against the Blue Devils. But Sunday's game in Charlotte, North Carolina, was another matter.

The Blue Devils shot 60 percent in the opening half — with their injured 3-point ace, Trajan Langdon, on the bench — to go up by 16 in the opening 20 minutes. The strong start by Duke came against a Tar Heels team seeking to avenge a 20-point rout by Duke eight days ago in the Smith Center.

Duke's lead reached as many as 24 with a 10-0 run to start the second half as Brand scored on a shot in the lane and a dunk, and Avery sank a 24-foot 3-point shot.

But the Tar Heels had one more rally in them before falling to one of the more talented teams in ACC history. A 14-0 run by North Carolina got them back in the game, closing within nine with 10:28 left.

Duke, however, sensed a piece of ACC history and went for the kill.

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE In Atlanta, Scott Padgett scored 20 points and the No. 4 Kentucky Wildcats used a 16-0 spurt at the end of the first half and the beginning of the second to beat No. 22 Arkansas, 76-63, in the championship game of the Southeastern Conference tournament.

The Wildcats (25-8), who get the SEC's automatic bid to the NCAA tournament, won their third straight tour-



Slobodan Savovich of Ohio State pulling away from Lucas Johnson of Illinois in the first half in Chicago.

namant title and seventh in eight years — a remarkable streak that has included only one loss in 24 games. That came in the 1996 final against Mississippi State. Arkansas, which joined the SEC for the 1991-92 season, has never won the tournament, losing twice to Kentucky in the finals.

The Razorbacks (22-10) jumped to a 19-6 lead less than five minutes into the game, only to see the defending national champions bounce back as they always seem to do at this time of year. Kentucky closed the first half with an 8-0 run to slice Arkansas' lead to 40-39. Padgett, the tournament MVP, hit a 3-pointer, and Heshimu Evans scored the final four points, including a pair of free throws with five seconds remaining after drawing a charge from Kareem Reid.

The Wildcats went ahead for good by scoring the first eight points of the second half. Padgett missed two shots

under the basket but kept working the boards, finally putting in his third attempt to put Kentucky ahead for the first time, 41-40.

BIG TEN Illinois, which entered the Big Ten tournament seeded 11th out of 11, pulled off its third straight upset to reach the title game.

The Illini (14-17) beat No. 11 Ohio State in Chicago, 79-77, on Saturday for its third straight victory over a ranked opponent in as many days. The Illini started Big Ten play 0-7 and did not win a conference game until late January before finishing 3-13.

Cory Bradford, a freshman, scored 17 points, hitting six free straight free throws in the final 1:19, as the Illini blew a late 11-point lead and survived a wild finish to beat the Buckeyes (23-8). Michael Redd scored 32 points, hitting 11 of 18 field goal attempts, to lead Ohio State.

Illinois faced Michigan State, which

is ranked No. 2, in the final. The Spartans beat No. 19 Wisconsin, 56-41, in the other semifinal.

Michigan State (28-4) trailed 18-8 in the first half, but fought back to tie the score at 22 at halftime and then held Wisconsin (22-9) scoreless for nearly 11 minutes either side of halftime.

BIG 12 In Kansas City, Oklahoma State held on to beat top-seeded Texas, 59-57, in the semifinals of the Big 12.

Adrian Peterson hit the front end of a one-and-one free throw to give the fifth-seeded Cowboys (22-8) a two-point lead with nine seconds to go.

Texas (19-12), the regular-season Big 12 champion and winner over Oklahoma State in 10 of their last 11 meetings, ruined itself with turnovers in the final 1:30 by Ivan Wagner and William Clay.

In the other semifinal, Jeff Boschee scored six in the final 1:35 to help Kansas beat Kansas State, 69-58. (AP, NYT)

Huskies Win Big East By Trampling St. John's

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Connecticut won its second straight Big East tournament title, thrashing 10th-ranked St. John's in Madison Square Garden, 82-63.

The victory brought the Huskies their third conference championship in four years and their fourth of the 1990s. Connecticut also had the best regular-season conference record six times this decade.

Connecticut started the game with a 13-0 run that looked like an edited highlight film. After missing their first shot of the game, the Huskies made their next six — the first three by Richard Hamilton — while forcing three turnovers.

Only 2:42 had elapsed when St. John's (25-8), trailing 13-0, called a timeout.

Hamilton finished with 23 points for Connecticut. Khaled El-Amin had 15 points and tournament MVP Kevin Freeman nine, giving him 52 for the three games.

No. 8 Utah 60, No. 25 New Mexico 45 Alex Jensen scored 18 points as Utah capped a perfect Western Athletic Conference season by winning the league tournament in Las Vegas. Utah (27-4) won its 22d straight as it beat New Mexico for the third time this year.

Rhode Island 62, Temple 59 In Philadelphia, Lamar Odom hit a game-winning shot that gave Rhode Island (20-12) the victory over Temple in the Atlantic 10 championship game.

With 6.1 seconds left and the game tied 59-59, Odom got the ball near half-court and drove down the left sideline. He stopped about 22 feet from the basket and released the ball. It swished through as the horn sounded.

New Mexico State 79, Boise State 69 In Reno, Nevada, New Mexico State beat Boise State to win the Big West championship and an automatic berth in the NCAA tournament. The Aggies (23-9) were blown out in their two regular-season meetings with Boise State (21-8). Weber State (24-7) beat Northern Arizona (21-8) to win the Big Sky Conference tournament in Ogden, Utah. Weber State's ball-hawking defense produced nine steals and forced 13 turnovers.

Florida A&M 64, S. Carolina St. 61 In Richmond, Virginia, seventh-seeded Florida A&M upset top-seeded Carolina State to win the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. The Rattlers (12-18) are the 15th team to make the NCAA tournament with a losing record.

Alcorn St. 89, Southern U. 83 Wallace Harris scored 22 points as Alcorn State (22-6) snapped Southern's 20-game home-court winning streak in Baton Rouge. The victory gave the Braves their first Southwestern Athletic Conference tournament championship since 1984 and an automatic berth in the NCAA tournament.

Texas-San Antonio 71, Southwest Texas 63 Steve Meyer scored 26 points as Texas-San Antonio (18-10) beat Southwest Texas State in the Southland Conference championship game "at Shreveport, Louisiana, to earn its second trip to the NCAA tournament.

North Carolina-Charlotte 88, Louisville 59 North Carolina-Charlotte earned an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament by beating Louisville in the Conference USA final.

A quirk in the conference rules made Charlotte (22-10) the fifth seed, even though it had the fourth-best record in the conference. Only the top four seeds got a bye in the first round. That meant the 49ers had to win four games and face Cincinnati, ranked seventh nationally, in the semifinal.

Delaware 66, Drexel 67 In Newark, Delaware, John Gordon scored 17 second-half points to lead top-seeded Delaware (25-5) over Drexel for its second straight America East championship and an automatic NCAA bid.

Oregon St. 89, No. 6 Stanford 45 Josh Steinthal scored 19 points as Oregon State muddled the NCAA tournament seeding in the West by upsetting visiting Stanford (25-6, 15-3 Pac-10) in a Pac-10 regular-season game.

Deamundra Tanner added 17 points for the Beavers (13-14, 7-11) and outplayed Stanford guard Arthur Lee, who was held to six points after scoring a total of 50 in his last two games.

No. 13 Arizona 87, No. 12 UCLA 70 In Tucson, Jason Terry, the Pac-10 player of the year, scored 26 points in his final home game as Arizona beat UCLA.

Devils Down the Islanders

Brodeur Sharp in Goal, Turning Away 19 Shots

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

Dennis Pederson and **Petr Sykora** each scored a goal and assisted on another as the New Jersey Devils climbed to within two points of the Eastern Conference lead with a 4-2 victory over the New York Islanders on Sunday.

Brendan Morrison and **Patrick Elias** also scored as the visiting Devils (35-21-8) closed in on the Ottawa Senators for best conference record. Ottawa has two games in hand on New Jersey.

Morrison stopped 19 shots for his 29th victory.

The Islanders got goals from Sergei Nemchinov and Robert Reichel and extended their winless skid to four games (0-3-1). Tommy Salo turned aside 25 shots in net.

Morrison opened the scoring 2:56 into the game. He had a breakaway against Salo, but was hooked by Ted Donato. Salo then misplayed the puck, which went through his pads and into the net. Elias made it 2-0 at 14:32 when he took a pass from Sykora, faked a backhand toward Salo, switched to a forehand and micked the puck past the fallen goalie.

The Islanders got on the board at 9:39 of the second period when Nemchinov banged home Mike Watt's cross-ice feed. Sykora scored his 22d goal at 12:59 on a slap shot from the right side during a four-on-four situation. Pederson knocked a shot down and then banged home a rebound during a power play at 14:41 for a 4-1 Devils lead.

Reichel's right-point one-timer caught the far right corner during an Islanders power play at 17:48 to cut the deficit to 4-2.

In games played Saturday:

Florida 3, New York 3 New York had taken a three-goal lead late into the third period, but the Flyers' rally started with 3 minutes, 6 seconds left with host Philadelphia scoring once, then again.

Then, with less than a minute remaining, Eric Lindros, the Flyers' hulking center, barreled over two Islanders on his way to the goal, where he swatted the puck away from the New York goalie, Tommy Salo, and stuffed it into the net with 51 seconds left, completing Philadelphia's comeback to earn a tie.

Florida 4, Kings 1 Cory Stillman and Jarome Iginla each had a goal and an assist and Valeri Bure scored on a breakaway as Calgary won in Los Angeles, dealing the Kings their fourth straight loss and extending the Flames' unbeaten streak on the road to five games.

Carolina 2, Florida 2 Scott Mellanby scored an unassisted power-play goal in the third to give Florida a tie with visiting Carolina.

San Jose 4, Sharks 0 Jean-Pierre Dumont scored two goals and Josef Marha had one — the first of the season for both and the first of Dumont's career — as Chicago won in San Jose.

Lightning 3, Canadiens 1 Wendel Clark scored three goals as Tampa Bay scored six points for the first time this season and snapped Montreal's five-game home winning streak.

Sentinel 3, Maple Leafs 1 Ron Tugnutt made 25 saves as host Ottawa won a battle of the top two teams in the Northeast Division.

Capitals 4, Oilers 3 In Washington, Adam Oates had a goal and two assists in a four-goal second period as Washington beat Edmonton, ending the Oilers' five-game unbeaten streak. (AP, NYT)



Roger Clemens firing his first game pitch as a member of the Yankees.

Clemens Loses in Yankee Debut

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

Roger Clemens started his Yankee career with a pre-season loss, pitching three innings as a New York aquad lost to the Kansas City Royals, 9-1.

Clemens, who said he threw his fastball at 75 percent to 80 percent of its normal speed in the game Saturday, gave up three runs and seven hits. But more unusual than the "L" next to his name in the box score was the "NY" on his cap.

"There's nothing funny about it," Clemens said of his new uniform. "Ever since the first couple of days in camp, I've felt comfortable with this."

Sammy Sosa, meanwhile, took a 1-0 lead over Mark McGwire in home runs. Last year, McGwire hit a towering homer in his team's spring opener before going on to hit a record 70 regular-season home runs. This year, he flied out to center and was hit by a pitch in his two plate appearances in

the St. Louis Cardinals' 4-3 loss to the Montreal Expos in his 1999 debut.

In Arizona, Sosa — who hit 66 last year, a home total second only to McGwire's in major-league history — connected for a two-run shot off Chandler Martin in the third inning of the Chicago Cubs' 11-7 victory over the Colorado Rockies.

The Baltimore Orioles are set to play the Cuban national team in Havana on March 28. A second game in Baltimore remains a possibility.

Overcoming State Department objections, representatives of Major League Baseball, the Orioles and the Cuban government reached an agreement Saturday night to play the game, a participant in the meeting said. State Department officials also were at the meeting. The participant said the Cuban representatives still had to get final approval from Havana and that the Major League Players Association had to agree to the game. (AP, NYT)

Ewing Lifts the Knicks

He Scores 30 as N.Y. Deals Nets 3d Straight Loss

The Associated Press

After missing buzzer-beaters that would have won the Knicks' previous two games, Patrick Ewing made sure there would be no need for any late-game heroics Sunday.

Ewing scored 18 of his 30 points in a third-quarter outburst, and New York won its eighth-straight home game, beating the reeling New Jersey Nets, 97-86.

Ewing, whose 31 points at Miami last Tuesday and 24 at Milwaukee on Friday were overshadowed by his last-second misses, shot 14-for-21 with nine rebounds and four blocks. Allan Houston added 17 points and Chris Childs had 15.

Keith Van Horn had 22 points and Kerry Kittles scored 21 for the Nets, who lost their third straight and dropped to 3-14 overall. Doug Overton gave New Jersey a boost by playing almost the entire second half and scoring 18 points, but the Nets missed 13 of their final 15 shots after pulling within two points with 5:04 left.

The Knicks, who began a stretch of playing seven of nine games at home, improved to 8-1 at Madison Square Garden. Ewing made nine-of-11 shots in the third quarter, including four straight baskets for New York after the Nets had pulled to 53-49.

Ewing's outburst helped the Knicks restore their lead to double-digits, and Childs made it 75-62 extending the fourth by banking in a 60-foot (18-meter) shot at the buzzer.

Pacers 85, Heat 72 Reggie Miller scored 16 points and Rik Smits added 14 as the Pacers, coming off their worst loss of the season, beat visiting Miami.

Indiana lost to Miami by 11 points in their first meeting at Market Square Arena three weeks ago and by 19 points to Golden State on Friday, their only home losses of the season. This time, the Pacers built a 16-point lead and held off the Heat in the closing minutes.

Reserves scored Indiana's first 17 points of the fourth quarter, including a 3-pointer by Sam Perkins and another basket by Perkins on a go-ahead call against Clarence Weatherspoon to give Indiana a 75-59 lead.

In games played Saturday:

Spurs 114, Clippers 85 Tim Duncan scored 27 points and the San Antonio Spurs handed the visiting Clippers their 15th straight loss. The Clippers are just two games shy of the record of 17 consecutive losses at the start of the season set by the Miami Heat in 1988 and just one short of their franchise record of 16 straight losses in 1994-95.

Magic 87, Pistons 82 Ike Austin scored a season-high 23 points and Penny Hardaway and Nick Anderson made two key baskets down the stretch to help Orlando stop Detroit's six-game winning streak.

Kings 111, Suns 99 Jason Williams scored 24 points to lead six Sacramento players in double figures as the Kings won in Phoenix.

Cavaliers 97, Warriors 80 In Cleveland, Shawn Kemp scored a season-high 31 points and grabbed 14 rebounds and Brevin Knight returned from an injury to provide a defensive spark in the victory.

Rockets 107, Grizzlies 82 Michael Dickerson scored a career-high 26 points as Houston won in Vancouver to extend the Grizzlies' losing streak to seven games. Scottie Pippen added 17 points, 7 assists and 7 rebounds.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Aussies Look Strong

CRICKET Glenn McGrath grabbed his 12th five-wicket haul in Tests as Australia continued the West Indies' misery before lunch on the third day of the opening Cable & Wireless cricket Test at the Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain, Trinidad, on Sunday.

The West Indies, resuming on 167 for nine, lost their final wicket to the last ball of the day's opening over from McGrath without adding a run. The visitors, with a first innings lead of 102, extended that to 145 by the interval, reaching 43 for one despite a break of 21 minutes because of light rain.

The 29-year-old McGrath finished with five for 50 off 14 overs as the West Indies collapse from Saturday evening was completed. Overall, the home team's last seven wickets fell for 18 runs after the captain, Brian Lara, was run out for the top score of 62.

Sri Lanka was off to a confident start after Pakistan set for it a challenging 385-run victory target on the fourth day of the Asian Championship Test match Sunday in Lahore.

The left-handed opening pair of Russel Arnold and Avishka Gunawardene rattled up 60 runs in 14 overs before bad light brought a premature end to the day's play. Arnold was batting on 15 while the hard-hitting Gunawardene hit six fours during his unbeaten innings of 36 before play was called off. Eighteen overs were yet to be bowled. (AP)

Dennis Viollet Dies at 65

SOCCER Dennis Viollet, the former Manchester United striker, has died following a long illness, the club announced Sunday.

Viollet, who was 65, survived the Munich air crash in 1958 which claimed the lives of so many of his teammates. He died in the United States on Saturday and had reportedly been suffering from a brain tumor.

Edmundo missed Fiorentina's Italian-league match Sunday, but club officials said it was because the striker was injured and had nothing to do with reports that he had been sentenced to four and a half years in jail by a Brazilian court.

A Rio de Janeiro court found Edmundo responsible for a traffic accident in December 1995 in which three people died. The court has indicated it may demand Edmundo's extradition from Italy to serve his sentence. (AP)

Phillips Wins Playoff

GOLF Van Phillips beat a fellow Briton, John Bickerton, at the first extra hole of a playoff Sunday to win the Portuguese Open in Penina.

Both players shot final-round, four-under-par 68s for aggregates of 12-under-par 276, three shots ahead of Robert Karlsson, Santiago Luna and Alex Cejka. (Reuters)

Irvine Survives Havoc to Capture Australian Prix

MELBOURNE — Eddie Irvine opened the Grand Prix season Sunday with his first Formula One victory.

Of the 21 starters, only eight drivers finished the Australian Grand Prix at Albert Park. Irvine, in his 82d race, beat Heinz-Harald Frentzen of the Jordan team by one second, with Ralf Schumacher of Williams coming in third.

Irvine said: "I was just pushing like hell. It's fantastic to win a race for Ferrari. The current car is the best I've ever driven."

But even though Ferrari won the race, its cars were clearly not the fastest on the track. Mika Hakkinen, the reigning champion, had led in the early laps only to drop out when his new McLaren developed problems. Irvine said: "Today, the torque beat the hare."

Hakkinen and his teammate, David Coulthard, started from the first two positions on the grid. Hakkinen then opened an 18-second lead over Irvine in

just 15 laps. Hakkinen looked uncatchable, but when Jacques Villeneuve lost the rear wing of his British American Racing car and hit a wall, bringing out the safety car, Irvine was able to close the gap as drivers slowed while the track was cleared.

When the race resumed, a throttle-linkage problem cut Hakkinen's speed, and Irvine blasted past the champion. By that time, Coulthard had dropped out with gearbox problems.

Last season, Irvine frequently sacrificed his chances of victory. He let Michael Schumacher, Ferrari's No. 1 driver, overtake him five times. Over the winter, the Irishman declined several offers to become a No. 1 driver elsewhere and chose to stay in what he calls the second-best job in Formula One, even though it limits his hopes of the drivers' championship.

Schumacher was never in a position Sunday to pass Irvine. Schumacher stalled on the last warm-up lap and was

sent to the back of the grid. He then shredded a tire and smashed his car's nose cone. He was also hampered by steering problems and limped home one lap behind Irvine as the last car to finish.

Schumacher said: "Naturally I'm not happy with my race today, but at least we both finished."

After passing Hakkinen, Irvine stayed in the lead — although Frentzen ran him close — and said the last few laps were like qualifying circuits.

Irvine said: "It was fairly straightforward, really. I was driving around wondering who I should thank and whether I should beat Zanardi to the doughnut. It was just plodding along to the finish."

Alex Zanardi, the former CART champion who celebrates victories by spinning his car and leaving a burnt rubber "doughnut" on the tarmac, failed to finish in the first race of his return to Formula One.

The race had an aborted first start

when the Stewart Ford cars of Rubens Barrichello and Johnny Herbert suffered electrical faults and were shrouded in smoke. Barrichello was given the reserve car, but Herbert was left without a ride.

After the race started, Damon Hill of Britain lasted only as far as the third corner, where he was nudged off the track by Jarno Trulli. It was a dismal way for the 1996 champion to mark his 100th Grand Prix.

Jean Alesi stalled his Sauber on the grid and was dragged off. The mishaps continued throughout the race as driver after driver was forced out.

Giancarlo Fisichella finished fourth in a Benetton, while Barrichello recovered well to finish fifth in the Stewart reserve car. Pedro de la Rosa came in sixth for Arrows; his teammate, Tora Takagi, was seventh, in a strong result by the team.

Barrichello was docked 10 seconds for passing Schumacher when the safety car was out, and the team said the penalty might have cost it victory. (AP, Reuters)



Eddie Irvine celebrating his victory Sunday in the season's first race.



David Beckham of Manchester United, left, battling Graeme Le Saux of Chelsea on Sunday.

Stalemate for Chelsea and Manchester

MANCHESTER, England — The top two teams in the English Premier League met in an FA Cup quarterfinal Sunday, and drew, 0-0.

Chelsea, which is second in the league, played with only 10 men for more than half the match at Manchester United, the leader, but defended superbly to ensure that the two teams will play again at Chelsea's home stadium in West London on Wednesday.

Roberto Di Matteo, a Chelsea midfielder, was sent off just

seconds before the end of the first half after receiving a second yellow card for an illegal tackle on Paul Scholes. Alex Ferguson, the United manager, rested Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke who have scored 43 goals between them this season.

Although United dominated the second half, it could not score. Scholes, guilty of a number of glaring misses, was sent off himself in the 86th minute for a second yellow card.

Elsewhere Sunday, Alan Shearer sealed an FA Cup semi-

final berth for Newcastle when he kicked the Magpies' fourth goal in a 4-1 rout of Everton at St. James' Park.

Newcastle's Georgian striker, Temuri Ketsbaia, scored two goals and set up Shearer for the clincher.

In the draw for FA Cup semifinal places, Newcastle was picked to play the winner of the Tottenham-Barnsley quarterfinal — postponed because of snow — while the defending titlist, Arsenal, will face the winner of the United-Chelsea replay.

Lazio Holds Steady in Italy With Rout of Salernitana

Salas Scores Twice in 7 Minutes in 6-1 Comeback Victory

ROMA — Marcelo Salas scored twice in seven minutes as Lazio overpowered Salernitana, 6-1, on Sunday in Rome to keep its four-point lead atop the Italian league.

Lazio fell behind on a goal by Salernitana's Ighli Vannucci in the 30th minute and could have fallen further behind had not one of its defenders, Paolo Negro, cleared a dangerous shot off the goal

meter free kick. Then, in the last eight minutes, Feyenoord's substitutes did the trick. Igor Korneev leveled with a drive through a crowd, and Ellery Cairo chased a long ball to roll in the winner.

Ajax Amsterdam climbed to third in the Dutch league Sunday by beating visiting Utrecht, 5-1. Benni McCarthy, the South African striker, scored three times for Ajax.

SPAIN FC Barcelona stretched its league lead to four points Sunday with a convincing 4-1 victory over Salamanca, while Real Madrid's Raul clinched a first league victory for the team's new coach, John Toshack, with a last-minute goal to down Zaragoza, 3-2.

The Portuguese winger Luis Figo hit Barcelona's first in the eighth minute. Then, the Spanish international Luis Enrique Martinez got the second in the 43d minute and the Dutch centerforward Patrick Kluivert made it 3-0 moments before the half-time whistle. The result left Barcelona with 47 points, four points ahead of No. 2 Valencia, which drubbed Athletic de Bilbao, 4-1.

GERMANY Bayern Munich beat Freiburg, 2-0, on Saturday to extend its string of shutouts to six and to stretch its lead in the Bundesliga to 14 points.

Bayern rested five starters from its Champions Cup match Wednesday against Kaiserslautern and played an uninspired game against a Freiburg team that is winless in five outings.

But Bayern is winning even with mediocre performances. It got help in the 30th minute Saturday when Jörn Schwindendorf, a Freiburg defender, accidentally headed the ball into his own net.

Kaiserslautern, which is in second place, gained a hard-fought 1-1 draw against Hertha in Berlin.

FRANCE Paris-St. Germain grabbed desperately at the rule book Saturday to keep its disastrous season afloat. PSG, struggling in the league and eliminated from both the Cup Winners Cup and the French Cup, lost, 2-0, at home to Montpellier in a quarterfinal of the League Cup, a minor competition. But the team appealed the result of Saturday's game. PSG officials argued that their club should be awarded victory because, following an error by a linesman, Montpellier had an extra player on the field for a few seconds. (AP, Reuters, AFP)



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